

Healing a Paralyzed Man ‘When Jesus Saw Their Faith...’

Introduction: **Text: Mark 2:1-12**

1. Who is the Real Jesus? Some want a...

- MORAL Jesus: Jesus was a good person, but not the Son of God
- MYSTICAL Jesus, : A New Age Jesus Who leads to enlightenment
- GNOSTIC Jesus: Who reveals secrets knowledge only to the initiated elites
- A PHILOSOPHER Jesus, A SOCIAL JUSTICE Jesus...
- A FEMINIST Jesus, A POLITICALLY-CORRECT, NON-JUDGEMENTAL Jesus

2. In Other words, a Jesus for their Own Personal Agenda...

1. Refusing to accept Jesus for who He truly is —
in order to make Jesus the way they want Him to be.
2. It is not Jesus who can be changed by us, it is us who must be changed by Jesus.

The Controversy of this Miracle—is the Controversy of Jesus Identity

I. THE SETTING OF THE MIRACLE (v.1–5)

A. THE CITY: Capernaum (v.1) [MAP]

1. Jesus began His ministry in Nazareth—But Was Rejected from the start...

- a) Jesus left Nazareth and dwelt in Capernaum—on the sea of Galilee (Mt 4:13)
- b) This is also Where Peter and Andrew, and James and John Lived.

2. Notice how Mathew describes it:

- a) “So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.” (Matthew 9:1)

3. Chrysostom: “Bethlehem bare Him, Nazareth nurtured Him, Capernaum had Him continuously as an inhabitant.” (Chrysostom)

B. THE CROWD (v.2)

1. The house is full... So Full No One Can Enter from the Outside

2. Luke tells us some of those present (Lk 5:17)

3. And Jesus is Preaching to them

C. THE FRIENDS (v.3–4)

1. Four men are determined to get their friend to Jesus...

- a) Jesus has already healed many in Capernaum....
 - (1) He cast out a demon from a man in the Synagog
 - (2) He healed Peter’s mother-in-law
 - (3) He Cleansed a Man Full of Leprosy
 - (4) And He Healed Numerous people Crowded at Peter’s Door
- b) Word Has Spread That Jesus Cares! Jesus Heals!
 - (1) No one can do the things He does except God be with Him! –Nicodemus admits

2. These Men Have One Mission—to Get their Friend to Jesus

- a) Even if it means tearing a hole in the roof—and lowering him down to Jesus!
- b) Can You Imagine the Chaos this caused!

3. How Were They Going to Get Him Back Out?

- a) They’re Counting on Jesus! —They Expect their friend is going to WALK out!

D. THE SAVIOR (v.5)

1. **Notice that Jesus does not reprimand them**
 - a) Jesus is not put out for being interrupted, or for the Damage to the House!
 2. **Jesus saw their Faith... And Forgives the Man of His Sins!**
 - a) If there was chaos from the interruption—Jesus words caused a scandal!
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II. THE CONTROVERSY OF THE MIRACLE (v.5–12)

A. WHY DIDN'T JESUS JUST HEAL THE MAN WITHOUT BRINGING UP THIS CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION OF FORGIVING SIN?

1. **Couldn't He have just healed the man and side-stepped this controversy?**
 - a) Remember who is in the room... (Lk 5:17) *“as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem.”*
 - b) There were Scribes, Pharisees, Teachers, Lawyers, of the Law...
 - c) PhD's of the Law, who had come from all over Galilee, Judea, even from Jerusalem
 - d) Scribes were given the duty of copying the Scriptures. Over the years they became very familiar with the biblical texts, and eventually became scholars and authorities of the text. HOWEVER...
“By Jesus' time, the scribes and their interpretation of the Law had become more important than the Law itself.” (Alan Carr)
2. **It Was Necessary for Jesus to Reveal His True Identity so People Could Understand How to Receive True forgiveness of sin.**
 - a) Jesus Was MORE than a Carpenter from Nazareth
 - b) MORE than a Preacher, or Rabbi... or Prophet... or Priest... or Good Teacher

B. AT THE HEART OF THIS CONTROVERSY IS A QUESTION (v.5)

Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?

1. **It was a firm belief of Jewish Scribes that Sin and Sickness were Linked... —That Physical Illness was a direct result of sin.**
 - a) That's why the disciples asked Jesus about the Blind Man in (John 9:2)
 - b) *“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*
 - c) Thinking it Sin cause the Man's Blindness—but Jesus said, Neither the man nor his parents sinned to cause this.
2. **But This popular Idea that Scribes and Pharisees believed, that sickness is a result of sin, Makes Jesus Question Even Thornier!**
 - a) Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?
 - b) Anyone could say “your sins are forgiven” and theres no proof one way or the other
 - c) But who could say to a paralyzed man, “Arise, take up your bed and walk?”
 - d) Especially since THEY Believed a Person Could NOT be Healed UNLESS their sins had been forgiven—since THEY believed it was sin that cause the illness in 1st place!
3. **The Experts in the Law were caught at their own game...**