

The image features a dark blue background with a yellow border. The border consists of a thin yellow line with decorative corner ornaments. Each corner ornament is a fan-like shape made of several yellow lines radiating from the corner. The text is centered within the border.

The Life of Jesus (18)

Jesus Heals A
Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

#1 Jesus, The Suffering Messiah

Jesus healed the man with leprosy in Matthew 8. And, this chapter 2 more instances of Jesus healing people are found.

This is how Matthew interpreted Jesus' acts of healing.

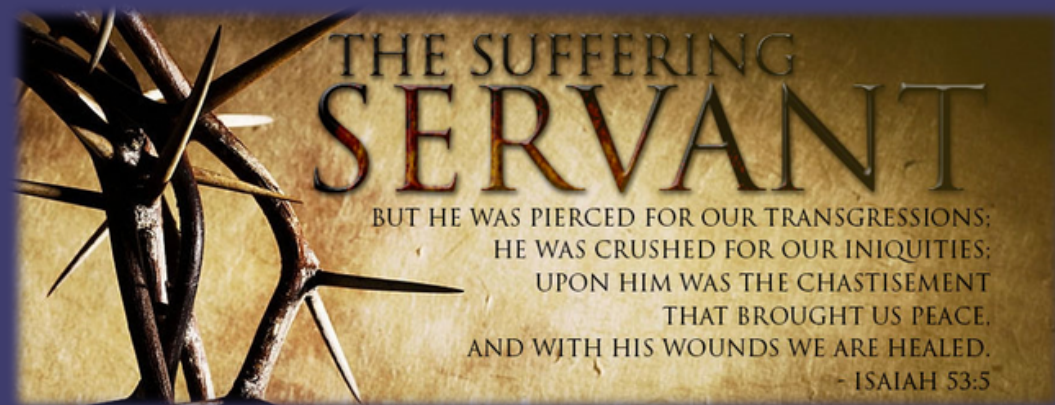
“This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

(Mt 8:17)

Matthew understood Jesus' ministry of healing as the fulfillment of what the prophet Isaiah said about the Messiah.

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.” (Is 53:4)

As the promised Messiah, Jesus came to the world, bore all our sins and diseases, and died on the cross.



#2 Jesus Heals A Paralyzed Man

One day, Jesus entered Capernaum. Soon, the news that Jesus had come spread and a large crowd gathered to listen to him.

As usual, Jesus preached to them. But, while he was teaching, some men brought a paralyzed man to him.

“Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, **they made an opening in the roof** above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.” (Mk 2:4)



Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven... I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home” (Mk 2:5, 11)

Then, the man was healed, got up from his bed, took his mat, and walked out. Everyone there was amazed and gave glory to God. From this story, we can learn two important lessons.

#3 The Friends' Compassion and Faith

The first lesson is about the faith of the paralyzed man's friends. We see how desperately they wanted to take the paralyzed man to Jesus through how they overcame the obstacles that kept them from going to him.

It was really hard for them to take the man to Jesus. They had to make a hole in another person's house. They might have needed to compensate the owner later for the roof.

Some people might have rebuked them for that. What they did must have disrupted Jesus teaching the people.

Nevertheless, they didn't give up because **their desire to take the man to Jesus was much greater than the situation and the obstacles.**

That shows their **compassion** for the man. They had so much compassion for the man that their priority was to save his life.

We also see what **strong faith** they had in Jesus. Their extraordinary actions came from the strong conviction that Jesus could heal the paralyzed man.

#4 The Friends' Compassion and Faith

“When **Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mk 2:5)

No one can doubt that the four friends' faith played a very important role in the process of Jesus healing the paralyzed man.

That's the mindset and heart we should also have when we lead others to Jesus. We see many **obstacles** that keep us from leading others to Jesus. These obstacles might frustrate us and make us give up amazing opportunities to save others.

That's why we need **Jesus' compassion and love** as well as **strong faith** to live a life worthy of the calling we have received. That's what helps us overcome obstacles.

#5 Jesus' Authority to Forgive Sin

When Jesus saw the paralyzed man, he didn't first say, 'Be clean'.

Instead, he said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mk 2:5)



This specifically offended some teachers of the law sitting there.

"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Mk 2:7)

Since only God has the authority to forgive sins, they thought Jesus was blaspheming by saying, "Your sins are forgiven"

#6 Jesus' Authority to Forgive Sin

Jesus: “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? **But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**” (Mk 2:8-10)

It was actually easier for Jesus to say ‘get up and walk’ because he knew that he would surely heal the man. If Jesus had said, ‘get up and walk,’ there wouldn’t have been any objection.

Nevertheless, Jesus chose to say, ‘your sins are forgiven,’ because **what he really wanted to show through his healing was his authority to forgive sins.** Jesus healed the man visibly to prove his invisible power to forgive sins.

What’s much more important than Jesus’ physical healing is his authority to forgive sins because the former is only about a short life we live in the world, and **the latter is about the eternal life we’ll have in the kingdom of God.**

Memory Verses

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.” (Is 53:4) (1)

“Son, your sins are forgiven... I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home” (Mk 2:5, 11) (1)

“I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” (Mk 2:8-10)

Questions

1) What did the paralyzed man's friends do to take him to Jesus? What were the obstacles they had to go through? How do you think they could decide such a decision?

2) Do you believe that God has called you to lead others to him? What obstacles do you see? How do you think you can overcome them and live worthy of God's calling?

3) Why did Jesus say, "Son, your sins are forgiven," when healing the paralyzed man? What truth do you find about him from this? Why is it important to know that Jesus has the authority to forgive sins?