

Their Faith
Mark 2:1-12

I. Intro

- A. This story is recorded in Matthew 9, and Luke 5, and use the same language in each instance.
- B. Jesus saw THEIR FAITH, and this is significant.
 - 1. We don't know if the paralytic had faith or not, we assume he did because he let his friends lower him through the roof
 - 2. But that is not noted, or remarkable
- C. Today we are reminded to complete your mission:
 - 1. A friend was commenting on the Artemis II flight.
 - 2. He noted that they had a commode problem and there was disagreement in the temperature and the thermostat needed to be adjusted
 - 3. He noted how similar that was to pastoral ministry...
- D. No matter how things look different from your anticipation regarding your ministry, keep serving IN FAITH!

II. Text

- A. Set the Scene:
 - 1. Flat roof house
 - 2. Today has a church built over it
- B. Verses 1-2: the crowds gather at Peter's MIL's house
- C. Verses 3-4:
 - 1. the bed is like a pallet or a mat
 - 2. 4 friends, lower the bed through a hole they made in the roof
- D. Verse 5: Jesus saw their faith
- E. Verses 6-8:
 - 1. Scribes: legal scholars regarding the law
 - 2. They were the ones that kept record of all the interpretations of the law and would have been bothered by Jesus' authority
- F. Verses 9-11: Healing
- G. Verse 12:
 - 1. The man got up and glorified God
 - 2. scribes said they had never seen this before
 - 3. All the people said they had never seen this before
 - 4. The difference was the people were amazed, the scribes were annoyed
 - 5. (Who do you relate to)

III. Points

- A. Carry on
 - 1. Carry on when your friend can't
 - 2. The word for unable is 'me dynamai'
 - a) dynamai pronounced doonamay
 - b) Also translated power, so without power
 - c) POWERLESS...have you ever felt powerless in ministry
 - d) They were powerless, but they believed the one gathering the crowd had power
 - e) They took their friend to Jesus, and that changes things.
 - 3. These friends so wanted to get their friend to Jesus:
 - a) They had heard the stories
 - b) They may have seen the healings
 - c) But they believed Jesus was the answer to their friends paralysis.
 - 4. Carry on:
 - a) When the crowds interfere
 - b) When there is a roof in the way
 - c) When you have to be careful not to drop your friend...

5. Carry on, by faith, in the ministry to which you have been called
 6. When you are tired...carry on
 7. When you are convicted...repent, and carry on
 8. When your friends need you to be strong for them...by faith carry on
- B. Who can forgive sins
1. The scribes were bothered because they were so focused on what was the tradition that they missed the point
 2. A modern interpretation of what they were thinking: "We've never done it that way before."
 3. They were questioning "in their hearts" but Christ heard their heart and responded verbally.
 4. Who can forgive sins?
 - a) Jesus can, and he did, and he then gave them a sign
 - b) It wasn't the sign that he did first, but the forgiveness
 - c) It wasn't the miracle of healing the paralytic that was the bigger deal, but the forgiveness of sin.
 - d) The greatest act of God in your life is the forgiveness of sin: It is why He died and endured the cross, providing our sacrifice
 5. JESUS can forgive your sins, and you can have peace with God!
- C. Get up and walk
1. When you have been healed of your paralysis, get off your mat and walk.
 2. The bed was all this man knew, but now he was healed, so he left what he knew and started a new life.
 3. When you have been forgiven of Sin, get up and walk!
 - a) If you have come to Jesus for salvation, let Him change you
 - b) If you have responded by faith, follow through the baptism waters
 - c) If you have been restored after a failure, put accountability in place and keep walking
 4. Jesus didn't bring you this far just so you could get this far!
 5. Jesus didn't bring you this far to leave you!
 6. You are on a mission, and that mission is sacred, intentional, and necessary:
 - a) Our mission is the mission of the gospel
 - b) We should intentionally follow the intentions of God
 - c) We are necessary in this mission
- IV. Close
- A. Be the church...
 - B. Sometimes you are going to need to let your friends in to your life so they can be strong when you are weak.
 1. Challenge: schedule a coffee, lunch, or share your home
 2. Challenge: deepen relationships and get real and honest
 - C. Sometimes you are going to need to carry your corner of the mat for a friend in need.
 - D. Be reminded today of the importance of your circle of friends, your community
 - E. We need to be like this:
 1. when we are weak, let our friends carry us to Jesus
 2. When we are strong, carry our friends to Jesus

[Mar 2:1-12 ESV] 1 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he said to the paralytic--
11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"