

The Paralytic

True Friends

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

1. If CNN reported on this incident, what would be their lead line?

- A faith healer makes a paralytic walk.
- Four friends raise the roof to help a friend.
- A preacher upsets religious leaders.
- Police are looking for vandals in a house break-in.

2. How would you feel if you were the paralytic when your friends decided to help you "drop in on Jesus"?

- reluctant - "You will embarrass me."
- scared - "You're going to drop me."
- grateful - "Thanks for your concern."
- apprehensive - "They are going to throw us out!"
- mixed feelings - "I don't think this is going to work, but I will trust you guys."

3. What impresses you most about the four friends?

- their faith
- their ingenuity
- their concern for their friend
- their boldness
- their determination

4. What is the closest you have come to having a supportive community who cared for you when you were hurting?

5. If you had friends who would take you to Jesus for healing today, what kind of healing would you ask for?

- physical
- spiritual
- emotional
- relational