

Miracles in Mark

Lesson 4 - Jesus Heals a Paralytic

Mark 2.1-12

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT:

LOCATION: Capernaum

TIME: At the conclusion of Jesus' Galilean circuit of preaching - 1.38-39.

CHARACTERS:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Jesus | The paralytic | 4 Men Who Carried Paralytic |
| Scribes (2.6) | Disciples | Crowds seeking Jesus |

PARALLEL TEXTS:

Matthew 9.2-8; Luke 5.17-26

NOTES ON THE TEXT:

- Jesus' home base for his early ministry was in Capernaum. See Matthew 9.1
- Typical Jewish home
 - Doors of a home would be opened early in the morning. Anyone could go in/out.
 - Doors never shut...unless for a special need for privacy.
 - Crowds fill the house. No room to get in/out.
- Flat roof. Used for rest/quiet, drying clothes, storing things.
 - Access would have been gained by going up stairs on an outside wall.
 - Roof held up by wooden beams
 - Beams overlaid with tree branches
 - Clay/mud was packed in..then everything was covered in dirt.
 - Easy to dig between beams w/o doing much damage to house.
- Paralyzed man lowered to Jesus. Witnessing their faith, Jesus heals the man and forgives him of sin.
 - 4 Men went to great lengths to get this person to Jesus.
 - Proper emphasis in culture would have been to make as much of a favorable impression as possible.
 - Last thing you would want to do is tear up the roof on a person's house...then ask for a favor.
 - Their actions proved their faith.

FOR A 21st CENTURY AUDIENCE:

- **The four men acted with boldness.** Is there anything bold about our faith?
 - Willing to go to great lengths - so far that most people would have questioned them about it.
 - To what lengths are we willing to go?
 - Hebrews 4.16
 - There is a boldness that comes by deeply believing God means what He says.
 - Trusted that people were more important to Jesus than the roof.
- **The four men really cared.**

- *They won't care how much we know until they see how much we care.*
- We must be a people who care - Romans 12.15
- Not just profess we care, James 2.14-16, but people who follow through & demonstrate that care.
- Caring about others only has meaning when we do something.
- **These men were committed to sharing Christ.**
 - When they shared Jesus with the paralytic, it made *the* difference in his life.
 - We need to be people with the kind of faith that is anxious to share Jesus.
- **These men refused to give up.**
 - Not enough room to get him through the door.
 - Not looking for a way out.
 - Their faith refused to die...even in the face of obstacles.
 - They were going to get him to Jesus - no matter the cost.
 - Cost them TIME to carry him to the house
 - Cost them EFFORT to carry him onto roof
 - Cost them TROUBLE to tear a hole in the roof to let him down to Jesus
 - Cost them FAVOR of the people, on whose heads the rubble was dropping as they ripped up the roof.
 - Cost them MONEY to repair the roof.
- **Our failures often result, not from obstacles or problems themselves, but from a lack of faith.**
 - We've already decided what is not going to work or what can't be done.
 - So much can be accomplished when we realize the power of God.