

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1920

JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 25: THE PARALYZED MAN

THE MAN WITH THE PALSYS

The story of the man that was paralyzed is covered by Matthew, Mark and Luke. Palsy in the Bible was a paralysis accompanied by involuntary tremors. Matthew's record doesn't have a lot of details, so we will piece it together from all three accounts.

Matthew 9:1

(1) And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city.



Mark wrote that when Jesus returned to Capernaum from the other side of the Sea of Galilee, a huge mass of people gathered around Jesus.

Mark 2:1-2

(1) And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

(2) And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

Luke also noted there was an enormous crowd around Jesus as four men carried a paralyzed man on a bed roll to be healed by the God-man.

Luke 5:18

(18) And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

While Matthew doesn't state how the man was brought to Jesus, Mark and Luke recorded there were so many people in the house that they went up to the roof. It was common for houses to have flat roofs, accessible via a stairway on the side of the house.

The area was used as a patio and the four men made an opening large enough to lower the man on the bed. There was undoubtedly a lot of noise when they broke open the roof and everyone must have looked up to see what was going on. Tying a rope to the four corners, the bed was lowered in front of the God-man.



Mark 2:3-4

(3) And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

(4) And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

Luke 5:19

(19) And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

As Jesus looked upon the man with palsy, He was moved by the faith of this man and his four friends. The Son of God forgave his sins instead of healing him immediately.

Matthew 9:2

(2) And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

Mark 2:5

(5) When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Luke 5:20

(20) And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

The scribes and Pharisees in attendance privately thought that Jesus had just committed blasphemy.

Matthew 9:3

(3) And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.

Mark 2:6-7

(6) But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

(7) Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

Luke 5:21

(21) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

Jesus had the ability to read minds and rebuked them when He perceived what they were thinking. Then He posed the following question: Is it easier to forgive sins or heal the sick? Anyone can claim to forgive sin, but it takes supernatural power to heal. To prove His point, the God-man performed a miracle by telling the paralyzed men to rise up, gather his bed, and go home.

Matthew 9:4-7

(4) And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?

(5) For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?

(6) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

(7) And he arose, and departed to his house.

Mark 2:8-12

(8) And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?

(9) Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

(10) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

(11) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

(12) And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Luke 5:22-25

(22) But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

(23) Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

(24) But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

(25) And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

The crowd broke out in astonished praise and worshiped God.

Matthew 9:8

(8) But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Luke 5:26

(26) And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

WHAT TO LEARN FROM THIS MIRACLE

The paralyzed man had four really good friends. They had faith that Jesus could make the palsy go way. They had faith like a mustard seed.

Luke 17:5-6

(5) And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

(6) And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

The four men loved their friend so much that when they saw the crowd and realized that there was no way to get into the house, they took their friend up to the roof and opened a hole large enough to accommodate their friend.

They did not ask the owner of the house for permission. They were single minded and didn't care what the owner might think. They had one mission and that was getting their friend to Jesus. The homeowner obviously did not appreciate the damage, but the total

commitment of the four men mandated getting their friend to Jesus and dealing with the fallout later on.

John 15:13

(13) Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

The higher criticism of the reprobate German theology from the 19th century has permeated Christian churches and removed faith that Jesus still heals today. We need to have the same mindset and compassion for the lost and sick that the four men exhibited.

Matthew 15:32

(32) Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

We need to exercise faith in Jesus.

John 14:8-11

(8) Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

(9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

(10) Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

(11) Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

We need to push until we achieve victory.

Acts 12:5

(5) Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

GET OFF THE FENCE

Christians need to be honest. Don't say that you believe the Bible is the Word of God unless you believe it. Christians piously say they believe the Bible from cover to cover

while living in sin and rejecting what Jesus told us concerning miracles and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of Jesus penetrate and permeate your soul.

John 14:11-18

(11) Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

(12) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

(13) And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

(14) If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

(15) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

(16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

(17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

You have to make up your mind about Jesus. Was He a liar? Was He crazy? Did He speak the truth? You will be held accountable for your faith – or lack thereof – in the future when you stand in judgment. Will the Son of God commend or condemn you?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?