

The Healing of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

- Atmosphere in Capernaum as people jammed into house to see Jesus was charged
- Vs 1-2 Crowds of people began to draw more people till there was no space left
- Though there were all these people there were really only two dominant presences
- Luke 5: 17 tells us that there were Pharisees and teachers of the Law present
- Though there was only standing space, these religious leaders were seated (v 6)
- The Lord Jesus Christ was there: calm, unperturbed, in control, preaching truth

I. Some Helpful Friends (2: 1-5)

- Vs 2-3 set the scene of four friends who couldn't get their friend close to Jesus.
- They dug a hole through the roof of the house to bring their friend to Jesus
- Consider the dedication of this paralytic's friends, *they really loved him*.
- God is especially pleased to work when there is such love.
- Along with great love, the paralytic's friends *had great faith*: they would never have gone to such extremes if they didn't believe Jesus could heal their friend.
- Their faith *was persistent*. When they got their friend on to the stretcher they would not be stopped. Jesus lauded this kind of faith (see Matt 11:12)
- Their *faith was also creative*, many did not receive mercy because they were not so determined as these four. They did not believe as passionately as these four.
- Their *faith was sacrificial*, there would have been cost to repair the roof. A faith that is willing to bring Christ's power to the needy is always ready to pay the price

II. Some Hostile Foes

- The real paralytics in the room were the Pharisees & the scribes of the Law
- Jesus knew what was in their hearts & so he first forgave the paralytic's sins (v5)
- For the Pharisees this was blasphemy because only God can forgive sins
- Why did Jesus heal the paralytic's sins first & only after that heal his affliction?
- 1st The man's affliction may have been as a direct result of his sin (leper's case)
- 2nd Regardless of the man's affliction his greatest need was forgiveness of sins.
- 3rd Jesus pronounced forgiveness to show the Pharisees' hardness of heart (v8-11)
- His physical miracle verified His moral miracle? What could the Pharisees say?
- Vs 12 again showed the disparity between dead formalism and living faith in Christ