

WORD

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." **Mark 2:2-9**

Miracles are supernatural occurrences. The book of Mark records many occasions when Jesus would perform miracles to help people on the outskirts of society. This account is one of God's miracles that introduces the authority of Jesus to forgive sins.

By looking at what transpired in this event, let us reflect on the truth that God has the same power to move in our midst even today.

1

There is hope even in hopeless situations.

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. **MARK 2:3-4**

Jesus was in Capernaum teaching a large crowd when he was interrupted by four determined men who were bringing their friend to be healed.

Sometimes, there are situations that are out of our hands and it would seem like there is no way for us to get through our situations. Was there a time when God seemed so far? The friends we have, our spiritual community, and the church stands with us in faith for the miracle we are waiting on. (read 2 Corinthians 1:11; Matthew 18:19-20)

2

God sees our faith.

⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." MARK 2:5

Four men struggled with ropes tied to each corner of the stretcher with a paralytic on it, calling the attention of Lord Jesus to their friend's need. They are desperate to get through to Jesus, whatever it takes. In return, Jesus saw their faith, and their faith was acknowledged. Their audacity and determination revealed how great their faith was. Have you ever prayed similarly for someone you know? Did that person's faith hinder you from believing God to move? (read *Galatians 6:2; James 5:16*)

3

Trust the authority that Jesus has.

¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." MARK 2:10

In Jesus' time, people thought that any sickness or disability was a punishment from God for committing sin.

They believed that only God has the power to forgive sins. And so, the Pharisees were angry that Jesus was claiming to have the same power as God. Jesus says that he has the authority to forgive sins and then proves it by healing the paralyzed man.

To trust Jesus is to believe in the reliability, truth, ability, and strength of His word. It's a choice to have faith in what He says even when your circumstances would have you believe otherwise. It is being confident of who He is. (read *John 14:12-14; Mark 11:24*)

APPLICATION

- Is Jesus the first person you turn to when you are faced with challenges? This week, how can you commit to seeking Him first in all things?
- What has made you put your trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Share this with a family member or friend this week.
- Choose one Scripture that you will claim over a specific situation. Take time to memorize it and meditate on it this week.

PRAYER

- Pray God's will over your life, your family, your church, your nation, and the nations of the world. Ask Him for greater faith and trust in Him.
- Intercede for family members and friends who need to know and believe the gospel. Pray for divine opportunities to preach the gospel, and ask God for boldness and grace.



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