

THROUGH THE ROOF (THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC)



Christ to the World Ministries

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CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES

Through the Roof - The Healing of the Paralytic

Read Mark 2:1-12 and Luke 5:17-26 in your Bible.

Early in his ministry Jesus experienced great popularity. With headquarters in Capernaum, large crowds came to hear him preach and observe the healing of the sick. Some who came to hear him came for the wrong reasons. Pharisees and teachers of the law from throughout the country came to listen and observe. Their purpose in coming was to find fault and criticize.

The Paralyzed Man and his Friends

One man could not come to Jesus for healing. No doubt he wanted to, but his body would not let him. He was paralyzed. He could not stand or walk. Poor man! Poor man! His days were spent flat on his back. He moved only with the help of others. There were no wheelchairs and no equipment for self-help. Most likely, he had heard of Jesus and his healing ministry. But he could not get to him.

There were four people who cared. They, too, knew about the healing ministry of Jesus. They believed that if they could get their friend into the presence of Jesus, he could be made whole. So they went to work. The four men carried the paralyzed man on a little mat. But when they got to the house where Jesus was teaching, they could not get inside because of the crowd of people. The place teemed with people, inside and out. No one in the crowd stepped back to let the paralyzed man through.

The friends did not give up. They promptly carried their friend up on the roof of the house. Houses were small with outside stairs to the roof. Beams spanned the rooftop, and branches and grass held together by mud supported an outer covering of clay tiles. The men knew it would be easy to remove the tiles. They did so and carefully lowered the mat with their friend down into the room. The crowd stepped aside in astonishment and the mat came to rest on the floor right in front of Jesus.

Jesus and the Paralyzed Man

Luke 5:20 says, “*When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’*”

Jesus saw the faith of the four men, and likely the paralytic who let them bring him to Jesus.

Notice that Jesus forgave the man’s sins before he healed him. Why? The people of Palestine believed that a person suffered because of his sins. So Jesus told this man first that his sins were forgiven since he might not believe he was healed otherwise.

The Pharisees and teachers of the law listened and observed, and they did not like what they heard. They accused Jesus of blasphemy against God. They believed only God could forgive sins. They did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son.

Jesus demonstrated his authority to forgive sin by healing the paralyzed man. He told the man, “*I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home*” (Luke 5:24). Immediately the man felt strength surging through his body. Limbs that would not move came to life. The man immediately stood up. He picked up his mat and went home, praising God as he went. The common people who witnessed the miracle praised God in wonder and awe.

Conclusion

Jesus alone has power to forgive sins. He can come into your life and forgive you of every sin. The Bible teaches that you are a sinner. But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin. You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.

Pray this prayer: “*Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*”

Welcome into God’s family!

Share with others that you have received Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.