

HE SAW THEIR FAITH

LUKE 5:17-26; MARK 2, MATTHEW 9

Text:

Introduction:

When the Lord looks at our lives, when He looks at the life and ministry of this church, when He examines the life of the pastor, when He examines the lives of those that stand by the pastor's side, and help in this work, does He see our faith or our fear?

The Bible says He saw their faith. And when He saw their faith, He said unto him, Man thy sins are forgiven thee.

Turn to the book of Hebrews.

(Heb 11:6 KJV) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The Bible says that it is impossible to please Him without faith.

The Christian life is designed to be lived only through faith. Notice what Jesus said in the story we have just read, "When He saw their faith."

May God help us to be a people of faith. As we look at this story let me say that it is recorded in the other gospels, so let's take the time to read them as well.

Matthew 9:1-8

(Mat 9:1-8 KJV) And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. {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. {3} And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. {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. {8} But when the multitude saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Mark 2:1-12

(Mark 2:1-12 KJV) 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. {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. {5} When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. {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? {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.

Notice:

1. THE PARALYZED MAN

A. Totally helpless

B. Totally dependent for someone else to get him to Christ.

1. That is the condition of every man, woman, boy, and girl.

C. Totally hopeless and bound for Hell.

(Eph 2:1 KJV) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

What can a lost, blind, dead sinner do to get himself to Jesus?

He was dependent upon someone who knows Christ to get him to Christ.

Notice this took place in Capernaum

(Mat 11:20-24 KJV) Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: {21} Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. {22} But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. {23} And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. {24} But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

How much more are we going to be accountable? The opportunities that we have been given, the light that has been shed to us, and the people that we have been given a privilege to be around to reach with the gospel.

2. PARTNERS IN SERVICE (MARK 2:3)

(Mark 2:3 KJV) And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

A. Compassion

B. Concern

Illustration:

M J Parker in one year he personally brought 252 people down the aisle for salvation, and baptism. A man with a 3rd grade education, and who worked a full time secular job.

He was sitting in a service in 1948, and heard a message on this text about these four men caring a corner of this man's bed. He decided to take a corner. He went and bought a base ball and found two boys and told them that if they would bring someone with them that he would give them a baseball.

The next weekend they brought people. Before long he had eight, ten, twelve people up to eighteen people in his car. He asked for a bus. Dr. Roberson told him if he would bring in a certain number of people in his car for a certain number of weeks that he would get him a bus. Well he did, and they got him a bus.

He got from one bus to two busses, and on one Sunday, he brought in over 1200 people on 10 busses.

And the evangelist, soul winning bus ministry was born.

Notice:

(Luke 5:18-19 KJV) 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. {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.

1. They sought means.
2. They work out a way.
3. They worked out the way. (Much effort)

(Luke 5:20 KJV) And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

C. This man got more than physical healing, he got saved.

1. That man knew that he needed more than physical healing.
2. If we take care of every need in people's lives and miss this need, we've missed it all.

3. THE POWER OF GOD.

There is a big fight about to break out here, and instead of people being excited about what is going on, there

are those sitting back and questioned what was going on.

(Luke 5:17 KJV) And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

A. The Pharisees question the events to themselves.

1. How many thoughts does God know that we think?
2. Jesus perceived their thoughts.

(Luke 5:21-23 KJV) And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? {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?

a. Jesus tells them their thoughts.

3. They were thinking that anyone could make that statement, but could really do it unless they were God.

4. Proof of Who He is.

(Luke 5:23-25 KJV) 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 evidence that the invisible world, has touched the visible world, the evidence that the power of Heaven has come to earth, is demonstrated in a changed life.

4. THE PRAISE THAT FOLLOWED

(Mat 9:8 KJV) But when the multitude saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

(Mark 2:12 KJV) 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 5:26 KJV) And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

- A. Marveled
- B. Amazed
- C. Glorified God
- D. Never saw anything on this fashion.
- E. Strange things?

1. Should it be a strange thing to see someone saved? If it is it has been too long.

The one thing that makes Heaven rejoice is a sinner getting saved.

(Luke 15:7 KJV) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Close:

The paralyzed man. There may be someone here today. Who needs what Jesus alone can give. Salvation.

There are those here this morning who need to take a corner, and bring people to Jesus.

There are those here who need to realize how powerful God really is. Not just saying it but truly believing it.