





So You May Know

Matthew 9:1-8

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 5:18-26

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Jesus has come into the town of Capernaum. Matthew's gospel says that this was his "own city," which seems to imply that this was Jesus' hometown. After several days, people heard that Jesus was in town, and many people came to see him.

Discuss:

Jesus was a celebrity.

What does that mean? It means he was famous.

What do people do to celebrities? They follow them, find out where they are, and see what they are doing.

Jesus had no privacy; people followed him everywhere he went.

What would this be like? Would you like to be famous like this?

Would you want people following you everywhere?

It could be difficult; people were always around asking questions, or wanting to be healed.

Jesus often had to get away to rest or pray because there were always crowds of people around him.

After a few days, people found out Jesus was in town.

Discuss:

They may have told their friends, "I heard Jesus is here! I heard he's staying..." or, "

My friend's friend thinks they saw him over at somebody's house."

He may have come into town, and then somebody saw him, and told other people.

Maybe they would walk by, hoping to get a glimpse of him or find out where he was.

As soon as people found out where Jesus was, so many people came to see him that there was no room in the building, not even around the door, and Jesus was preaching the word to them.

Luke's account says that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by. These men were studied in the laws of Moses, and they knew all the laws of the Bible. When they heard that Jesus was in town, they came from surrounding towns to come see Jesus.

Notice Luke 5:17: "The power of the Lord was present to heal them." The power of God was in the room!

Just because power was there, it doesn't mean that everyone could receive. When we harden our hearts to the things of the Lord like the Pharisees did, the power of God can be right in front of us and we don't even see it. The Word says when our hearts are hardened, then our ears become hard of hearing. When we are unable to see and hear, we cannot understand, and the Lord is not able to heal us because we are not open to receive from Him (Isaiah 44:18; Matthew 13:15; John 12:37-40; Acts 28:27).

Some historians believe this may have been Jesus' own house, as it seems his home was in Capernaum. Others believe it may have been Peter's house, because some scriptures seem to indicate that Peter may have made his home in Capernaum; we do not know for sure.



So You May Know

Discuss:

Have you ever been anywhere this crowded?

All the seats would have been taken, and people were standing all around.

The doorways were blocked.

There were so many people that no-one could squeeze into the place where he was.

Five men came to see Jesus. Four of them were carrying a bed with a paralyzed man lying on it. What does it mean to be paralyzed? He couldn't move part of his body; we don't know if it was just his legs or his whole body. These four men brought him because he could not get there on his own. Maybe they were his relatives, maybe they were his friends; but they believed if they could get him to Jesus, he would be healed. They tried to figure out a way to bring the bed and the man in to see Jesus, but there were so many people they could not get inside. Luke says that they tried to get into the house: they probably asked people to let them in, but it was just too crowded.

These men came up with a different plan. They decided to go up on top of the roof. The roof was made of pieces of tile; they took the tiles off the roof and lowered the man down on his bed right in front of Jesus.

Discuss:

This was quite an event. Rather than be discouraged, they climbed up on the roof, and they had to carry the man on the bed up on top of the roof. Then they took the roof apart. They did not seem concerned that anyone might be upset that they tore up the roof; they were determined to get this man to Jesus.

This was their friend; they would do whatever it took to get him to Jesus. This shows that they were confident - they had faith - that if they could just get the man to see Jesus, he would be healed.

What would it be like if you were in the room listening to Jesus?

Suddenly the roof was lifted and some pieces of the roof probably fell into the room on the people below. Then a man on a bed comes down through the hole right in front of Jesus. The friends are probably still on the roof; they are lowering the man down, probably with some kind of rope.

All three gospels say that Jesus could see something. What do you think Jesus could see? Jesus saw their faith.

Can you see faith? Their faith was seen because of what they *did*. (James 2:18, 22) Faith without works is dead. What does this mean? If you say you believe something, but you don't act like you believe it, do you really believe it? Did they believe that if they could get this man to Jesus he would be healed? Yes, they did. They did whatever they could to get this man to Jesus because they believed he was going to be healed.

Now, notice what Jesus says. He doesn't tell him he is healed.

Jesus says, "Your sins are forgiven."

It seems like the forgiveness of sins that Jesus mentioned did not anger the crowd. Is the man healed? Nothing has happened yet.



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But there was one group of people that were very upset by this. All three gospels tell the reader what the scribes and Pharisees were *thinking*. The gospels say they reasoned in their hearts, but Jesus knew their thoughts. The scribes and the Pharisees were thinking, “How can he say their sins are forgiven? Only God can forgive sins. He is speaking blasphemies (evil).” But they did not say these things out loud. Jesus knew their thoughts.

Can Jesus forgive sins? Yes, he is fully God and fully man.

He asked them, it is easier to say “Get up and walk,” or is it easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven?”

In the flesh it looks like it would be easier to say, your sins are forgiven. There would be no outward sign of if it had actually taken place. To tell someone to get up and walk, you would see whether it actually happened. But Jesus was trying to show them that the two are connected.

Then Jesus says, “So that you know the Son of Man (Jesus) has the power on earth to forgive sins;” he’s basically saying, I’ll prove it to you: I can forgive sins. Then he looks at the man and says, “Get up, take up your bed, and go to your house.” The man immediately gets up, rolls up his bed, and walks out in front of everyone. The people said, “We’ve never seen anything like this!” And other people said, “We have seen strange things today.”

Jesus in the Story



Why was he able to walk after his sins were forgiven?

Sin was the problem.

Who was the first man to sin? Adam. That made every person born in the world a sinner. When you have sin in your life, one of the things it can do is make you sick. Sin is like opening a door for Satan to come into your life.

When you sin, you are a slave to sin (Romans 5:14-21; Romans 6:11-16, 23).

Under the law of Moses, God listed all the things that are blessings for you if you obey all the laws. Then he listed the curses and bad things that would happen if you did not obey all the laws. Can we obey all of God's commands? No. But Jesus can, and he did. He came down here as a man and he did not do anything wrong. He was the perfect person and never sinned.

Under grace, our sins are forgiven.

We are made righteous, and sin no longer has power over us. We are freed from the effects of sin, and this includes sickness. This is why Jesus was saying, let me show you, let me prove it to you. Once the man was forgiven, he was free from the power of sin on his life, and he was healed.

This is also why many times Jesus told people, "Go and sin no more."

We do not see that in this story, but we do see that throughout Jesus' ministry. After you receive grace and forgiveness, and even healing, if you continue to sin, you will open the door for the devil to come back into your life and become sick again (Romans 6:16).

When we receive the gift of Jesus' righteousness, we inherit all the blessings that come through Christ, which includes healing. Jesus took away the curses of the law of Moses and only left us with the blessings (Galatians 3:13-14). Because of Jesus, we have been redeemed (excluded) from the curses listed in the law of Moses (Deuteronomy 28) and they have no power over us anymore.

People glorified God because he had given such power to men. Through Jesus' name, we can pray for people and see them healed. God sent us the Holy Spirit to give us power. Jesus gave us the same authority he used on earth and we can use his name to command the devil to leave, and see people healed.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

9. So You May Know

Compare Matthew, Mark & Luke

1. Which writer tells how many people carried the man?
2. Which writers tell how the men got in the house?
3. What do all three writers say that Jesus was able to see?

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

10. A Withered Hand

Matthew 12:11-12

1. If your sheep fell into a well on the Sabbath, what would you do?
2. What does Jesus say about people compared to sheep?
3. What does Jesus say the law allows us to do on the Sabbath?

Mark 2: 27-28

...the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.

11. Finding Great Faith

1. Why did the Jews tell Jesus he should go to the centurion?
2. What did the centurion say about Jesus coming to his house?
3. What did the centurion say he understood because of the soldiers that served under him?

Psalms 10:17

Lord, you have heard the desire of the humble; you will prepare their heart; you will cause your ear to hear.

12. Who Is This?

Read Psalm 107

1. What does it say would happen in verse 25?
2. What does it say the people will do in verse 28?
3. What will the Lord do in verse 28?
4. How should the people respond (verses 8, 15, 21, 31)?

Psalm 107:31-32

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people, and praise him in the company of the elders.



