

### **Jesus Responds and Commends FAITH:**

1. Matthew 8:5-13 (Luke 7:1-5) - Jesus responds to the FAITH of the centurion and heals his servant saying “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith?”
2. Mark 5:22-43 (Matthew 9:22) - Jesus responds to the faith of the woman suffering from bleeding saying “Take heart, my daughter, your faith has made you well”.
3. Matthew 9:29 - Jesus responds to the faith of two blind men and gives them sight saying “according to your faith be it done for you”.

### **What is FAITH:**

- **Faith is a gift from God:** God gives us the ability to respond in FAITH to the truth about Jesus (Eph. 2:8, 1 Cor 2:14, Romans 3:11, John 3:5, 2 Cor. 4:6)
- **Faith is a confident conviction in the unseen realities of God:**
  - Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen”
  - Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible”.
- Saving Faith, then, is **trust in the person of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.

### **What FAITH is NOT:**

- FAITH is NOT the absence of questions....
- Faith is not a means to manipulate God to act or respond in certain way
  - Prosperity “gospel”
- Faith in Jesus is not a ticket to an easy life
  - 2 Timothy 3:12 - persecution
  - Philippians 1:29 - suffering is a GIFT

### **What does living out OUR FAITH look like?**

- Example from Daniel 3:13-18; Mark 2:1-12
- Genuine faith leads to “good works” (James 2:14-26)
  - Forgiveness/asking for
  - Confession
  - Overlooking an offense
  - Using resources to help those in need
  - Telling others about Jesus

**Genuine Faith in Jesus is not a ticket to an easy life, but IS an invitation to a life worth living for the glory of God and the good of others**

## **“Faith that Finds a Way”**

March 2, 2025

Mark 2:1-12

### **Introduction**

Can you recall a time in your life when you had to **exercise** your FAITH in Jesus?

As you look back, what emotions did you experience during this time? Do you think your faith was strengthened through this situation?

### **1. He’s Back.....**

*“And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 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”.*

**Mark 2:1-2**

Word had gotten OUT that Jesus was back in town.....

Capernaum, specifically the home of Simon Peter, seems to have been Jesus’s base of operations.

Jesus was preaching about the Kingdom of God (see 1:14,38)

### **2. But.... How Can We Get to Him?**

*“And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 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**

In the midst of this busy scene, and in a demonstration of sacrificial love, come four

men carrying a paralytic hoping to get close to Jesus...

What emotions do you think they experienced when they saw the crowded house?

However discouraged they might have been they were not to be turned away that day...

They “unroofed the roof” and made a way to Jesus!

### **Jesus Responds to their FAITH:**

*And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

**Mark 2:5-7**

While everyone is probably upset, or least in shock, Jesus sees beyond all of that - He sees their FAITH....

His compassionate response - “Son, your sins are forgiven” - Jesus is making a clear statement - He is God. (See also John 9:2-3)

The scribes and Pharisees DIDN’T SEE the FAITH of the men, but were trying to uphold the LAW... (Luke 5:17)

### **Jesus Perceives Their Thoughts:**

And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”

**Mark 2:8**

Read John 2:23-25.

What is ironic in their questioning of whether Jesus is God in this moment?

### **Jesus Challenges the Religious Leaders:**

“Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

**Mark 2:9-11**

Which is easier to say “your sins are forgiven” or “rise up and walk”?

Which one of the above “miracles” inherently provides evidence that it actually happened?

Jesus is saying since I can do this “visible” miracle in causing a paralyzed man to walk you can believe that I can do the “invisible” miracle of forgiving sin.

### **The Paralyzed Man.... Walks:**

*“And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*

**Mark 2:12**

The religious leaders are silenced....

Do you think the faith of the men and paralyzed man was strengthened?

### **3 Reasons for this Account in Scripture:**

1. Demonstrates, again, Jesus healing power over disease.
2. Demonstrates, that in forgiving sin, Jesus is God.
3. Demonstrates the importance of FAITH.