

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Luke 5:17-26

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(outline adapted, Martin G. Collins)

You have one group of men (Pharisees and religious leaders) sitting around waiting to see what Jesus would do.

You have another group of four men bringing their friend to Jesus. Which are you?

How might our faith be encouraged by the faith of the friends? Notice the faith of the four men:

1) Wise faith.

The paralytic's friends brought him to the only One who could do anything about his situation.

Like today, other "gods" existed then but they knew the one true God, the One that could touch and heal this man. His friends would not "dabble" or mess with any other so called "religion", they went straight to Jesus.

Study any other "religion" in the world and one of two things is true, if not both; either the god of the religion can't be known or the god is dead.

2) Persistent faith.

The obstacles the friends faced:

Paralyzed friend

Crowd

Roof

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

They knew if they could get their friend to Jesus He could do what they could not. They didn't give up, they did not lose heart, and they were persistent.

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

May the fire of our devotion light their way

May the footprints that we leave

Lead them to believe

And the lives we live inspire them to obey

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful. ~ **Steve Green**

I want to be faithful to God's Word, His Church and His Heart! This includes being a faithful Husband, Father, Pastor, Friend and faithful day in and day out.

We need not follow the latest craze or seek to follow an idea or a person because we like what they have to say. Rather, we are to follow Jesus and be persistent in following Him.

"Consistency thou art a jewel."

3) **Sacrificial faith**

It took:

Time

Effort

Not getting discouraged - They never looked back

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **Galatians 6:9**

The four men didn't make **excuses**, rather they made this man a **priority**.

How are we taking our friends, family, co-workers and acquaintances to Jesus and making whatever sacrifice that is needed?

4) **Unintimidated faith**

Their faith was displayed in public, they need not care who or what others saw, their friend **needed** Jesus.

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. **Luke 9:26**

Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 10:32-33**

5) **Loving faith**

They obviously cared greatly for their friend.

They didn't wait nor expect Jesus to come to them; they **took** their friend to Jesus.

How are we taking our family and friends to Jesus? Do we love them? If so, we will take Jesus to them. We will live it, show it and most definitely speak it.

6) **Active faith**

Instead of sitting around whining and complaining about the paralyzed man's condition, they put their faith into action.

Prayer Focus: How does your faith need to be strengthened this morning?

Wise

Persistent

Sacrificial

Unintimidated

Loving

Active