



Jesus Heals A Paralytic Man

“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” (Luke 5:24).

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Each miracle has unique lessons for earnest seekers of the truth, and the healing of the paralytic man by Jesus is not an exception.

“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 multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men” (Matthew 9:1-8).

“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

“Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?” (Luke 5:23).

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” (Mark 2:1-12).

“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. **18** 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. **20** And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. **21** 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? **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. **26** And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day" (Luke 5:17-26).

This miracle teaches us the following:

- 1) Jesus has come to Capernaum, His local headquarter for Ministry. News spread rapidly and the house He was teaching in was immediately overcrowded by residents of Galilee, Judaea and Jerusalem. The crowd included prominent people like doctors of law, scribes and pharisees, etc. Among the crowd was four men carrying a paralytic man.
- 2) The paralytic man could not come on his own, so had to be carried by four men - a salient reminder of the need to help the helpless.
- 3) The four had arrived at the house, but there was a problem. The house was so crowded that they could not get to Jesus. Everyone was so keen on accessing Jesus that nobody wanted to give way for the paralytic to be brought in.
- 4) The route to a miracle may sometimes be paved with obstacles. When the going gets tough, it is only the touch that keep going to obtain their miracles. It takes faith to keep going when everything around suggests quitting. We must be like Abraham "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead...." (Romans 4:18-25)
- 5) Personal faith was their key to success. Many have manifested similar faith to their victory - and so too can you! (Esther 4:15,16; Psalms 42:5-11; Daniel 3:16-18; Genesis 39:7-9; I Samuel 1:10-20).

- 6) Many would easily give up at the onset of problems, and lose their chance for miracle as a consequence, but not for these four. They were determined to believe through to victory, and their determination paid off.
 - 7) Faith finds a way, when common sense and doubt rationalise and give up. Just imagine the fit that was involved in climbing the roof with the paralytic man on a bed, and cutting through the roof a hole big enough to let down the paralytic man on a bed, without the roof collapsing!
 - 8) Jesus first established a relationship before performing a miracle "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee".
 - 9) Jesus' starting with forgiveness reveal that, though not always the case, but sin could sometimes be the cause of sickness as well as a barrier to healing.
 - 10) This act of forgiveness of sins enraged the religious scribes and Pharisees who reasoned in their hearts and thought it blasphemous.
 - 11) Though they did not verbalise their reasonings, Jesus knew their thoughts and challenged them - "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? 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,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. 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" (Mark 2:9-12).
 - 12) Obviously, it is easier to say "thy sins be forgiven thee" than to say "Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk" as the latter demands instantaneous proof that would validate the authenticity of Jesus' claims.
 - 13) The resulting miracle was so profound that it silenced all enemies and opposition; and made all to glorify God the more.
- Note that Jesus has given you similar powers to forgive and to heal.