

## Healing the Paralytic

Mark 2:1-12; see Matt 9:1-8 and Luke 5:17-26

**Intro:** In this well known and much beloved miracle, Jesus claims to possess the divine authority to forgive sin, which only God can do; and then authenticates His claims to be the God-Man by healing the paralytic.

### I. Context of the Miracle 2:1-2

- A. Capernaum: Jesus' home base (v. 1)
- B. Composition of the crowd (v. 2a)
- C. Content of Jesus' message (v. 2b; see 1:14-15)

### II. Content of the Miracle 2:3-5

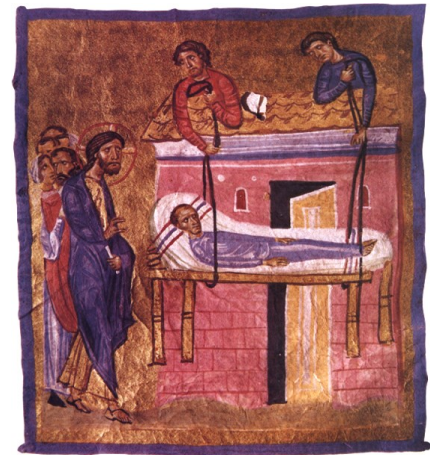
- A. The persistence of the men (vv. 3-4)

*Genuine faith works —  
Genuine faith persists —  
Genuine faith succeeds —*

- B. The power of the Lord (v. 5)

### III. Consequences of the Miracle 2:6-12

- A. The opposition (vv. 6-7)
- B. The proposition (vv. 8-10)
- C. The healing itself (vv. 11-12)



### Interpretation

The faith of four friends and a paralytic prompted this miracle, which allowed Christ to prove to the religious leaders that He was the Messiah and Savior. He was God come in flesh, and as God, He had the authority and ability to forgive sin and to heal both physically and spiritually. **Spiritual healing = eternal life!**

## Applications

1. Believers have the privilege of bringing others to the Savior.
2. No effort is too great to bring a lost ONE to Christ.
3. Spiritual healing (*brings eternal life*) is much more important to God than physical healing (*brings extra days, but still terminates in physical death*).
4. Jesus has the authority and the desire to forgive our sins: **come to Him**.
5. This miracle teaches us about the privilege of *intercession*. The friends interceded on the infirmed man's behalf. They were instruments of healing.
6. **Jesus handled the interruption without complaining. How do we handle interruptions?**
7. **Just to see a miracle doesn't mean you believe in the One who can do miracles. Verse 12 says they were all amazed...but they didn't believe.**
8. The miracle is designed to teach us something about the person of Christ. He makes an overt claim that He is God and confirms His message by healing the paralytic. In other words, Jesus' message is authenticated by the miracle. "So that you may know that what I'm saying is true (your sins are forgiven, (i.e. **I'm God**), **only God works great miracles.**"