

Jesus' life - Jesus shows he is the one to rescue God's family



One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

~ Luke 5:17-26~

In the true account of the paralysed man and Jesus, what was the man's biggest problem?

No, it wasn't that he couldn't walk, although that was a pretty huge problem. The man's biggest problem was his sin, all the times he had thought, spoken and acted against God.

Being paralysed meant that man couldn't walk, run, skip or swim, which probably also meant he couldn't get a job. But sin meant that the man was

separated from God and had to face God's punishment. That is so much worse than not being able to walk, run, skip or swim!

And Jesus knew that this man's biggest problem was his sin. That is why Jesus didn't just heal the man's legs but forgave the man's sin!

In fact, Jesus first forgave the man's sin!

This made the religious leaders who were there angry. Only God can forgive sins, they said.

Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking, and to prove he is God and that he can forgive sins, he healed the paralysed man!

This is good news not just for that paralysed man, but for all of us as well. Just like the paralysed man, we too have a big sin problem. All of us has thought, said and done things that go against God. All of us are separated from God and deserve his punishment. But Jesus proved he can forgive sins, so that means he can forgive our sins as well and bring us back into God's forever family!

Some questions to think about:

1. Why did the man's friends make a hole in the roof?
2. What was the first thing Jesus said to the man who was paralysed? Why did Jesus say that to him?
3. How did Jesus prove that he can forgive sins?
4. Why is Jesus being able to forgive sins good news for us?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus came to earth. Thank you that Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins. Please forgive me for the times I think, speak and act in ways that are against you.

Amen.