



Our Walk in Christ: Lessons from a Leaky Roof

Mark 2:1-12

In Christ, we have been forgiven.

⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Text Message:

- o This is not simply the story of a single paralytic in the first century, but a picture of our spiritual story!
- o This man was spiritually what he was physically: paralyzed, unable, stigmatized, in need of others to carry him.
- o This is our spiritual story too:
 - 1) We are paralyzed, unable to walk right before God.
 - 2) We are unable to be forgiven on our own merits.
 - 3) We are stigmatized as sinners and unrighteous.
 - 4) We are needing another/others to carry us.
 - 5) We are needing God alone to wipe the slate clean.
- o **AND** Jesus intersected our sad story with His forgiveness!
- o But **THIS** is not **ALL** of what we call the Gospel/Good News!
- o Think about it: the man is declared forgiven, but his day-to-day-life remains the same!
- o Jesus has forgiven us not to leave us the same, but to enable us to walk and join Him in changing the world!

**In Christ, we have been given power to walk.
Look at Verses 8-12:**

Text Message:

- o This is the Gospel: that Jesus forgives us **AND** gives us power for both life and world change as we abide in Him:
His divine power has granted to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness... 2 Peter 1:3, emphasis mine.
- o Notice this all took place in the paralyzed man's life in the fellowship with others!
- o Can you imagine the friendship they shared **after** this day?!!

In Christ, the ceilings of our limitations become openings for His possibilities.

⁴And 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.

Text Message:

- o The detail of the four men opening the roof makes this a favorite miracle story and good lessons for Sunday School.
- o But there is something more going on here.
- o In Mark 1, another "roof" is seen as opened at Jesus' baptism:
And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:10
- o When the openings of Mark 1 and Mark 2 are seen together:
 - 1) Things "open" because of Jesus' Presence.
 - 2) Mark 1 is a heavenly opening, Mark 2 an earthly one.
 - 3) What looks like ceilings and impossibilities are open and possible in Christ!

- o Like this man, we have things that hinder our walk with God.
- o *Will we dare to believe that abiding in Christ opens our ceilings and makes the impossible possible?*
- o Like the friends of this man, our faith will be stretched!
- o It may be messy (broken roofs are!) but any dust in our mouth and on our clothes will be worth the price of abiding in Him!