

How To SEE Faith

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: How do we "see" faith in others? Ourselves? How does what we "do" reveal our faith?

Table Time....

READ: Mark 2:1-11 "And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And 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. 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?" ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Q: What did you notice about this text?

Q: What do you notice about the paralytic's friends?

Q: According to verse 5, what did Jesus "see"? HOW?

Q: How is faith "seen" in our life?

A: READ: Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Q: How do "good works" manifest "faith" to the world around us AND to God?

Q: Why do you think Jesus said "Son, your sins are forgiven" in verse 5?

Q: What was the response of the "scribes" in verse 6? How did Jesus know this? (V.8)

Q: What does THAT teach us about Jesus' ability AND.....

Q: Why is it important that WE bring our thoughts, opinions, emotions...I.E. our "inner life" to Jesus? Is it possible for us to entertain thing in our "heart" that are not correct, pleasing to Jesus, or lead us astray?

Q: What will Jesus ALWAYS tell you about what's in your "heart"?

Q: What's the POINT of verses 10-12?

Q: What was the reaction of the people in verse 12?

Q: How was the scribe's "questioning" ACTUALLY the truth? What was their problem?

Q: How might this "mighty work" point us, invite us, to believe?

Q: How have you seen Jesus move in your life (i.e. do a mighty work) that points others to faith, or "manifests" faith?

Big Group Debrief....

READ: Mark 2:13-17 "He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Q: In quick succession, Jesus goes from healing a paralytic and revealing to the room that He is the Son of God, TOOO.....calling Levi that bad 'ol tax collector, sinner to "follow me". Why would Jesus' words and actions (choices of disciples) be controversial to the religious leaders?

Q: What's significant 15?

Q: How do WE STILL see/experience this in church? (Hint: we do this every 2nd and 4th Sunday)

Q: What's the good news found in verse 17?