

Jesus saw their faith.

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 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. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:1-5

Jesus forgives.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now 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?" ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? Mark 2:5-9

Jesus heals.

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." ¹²And 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!" Mark 2:10-11

Let's Talk About It

The story of the four friends in Mark 2 reminds us that genuine faith refuses to give up when obstacles stand in the way. Their determination to bring their friend to Jesus demonstrates the kind of faith that trusts Him to do what no one else can. When Jesus met the paralyzed man, He addressed his greatest need first by forgiving his sins before healing his body, revealing that our deepest need is always restoration with God. Jesus alone has the authority to forgive, heal, and transform lives. As we place our faith in Him and help others encounter Him, we can trust that He is still able to do the impossible.

Mark 2:1-12

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read Mark 2:1-5. Jesus "saw their faith." What are some practical ways our faith becomes visible through our actions rather than just our words?
- Read Mark 2:6-11. Jesus revealed that He has the authority to forgive sins. Why do you think Jesus addressed the man's deepest need—forgiveness—before healing his body? What does it teach us about what matters most to God?
- Four friends demonstrated urgency to bring someone in need to Jesus. Ask God to ignite a fresh love for lost people in your heart. What's one way this week you can bear a burden or take a risk to bring someone closer to Jesus?
- What is one step of faith God is inviting you to take right now? What's keeping you from taking it? How can this group pray for you?

Take a Step

What's one way you can put your faith into action this week?

Here's My Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing me that faith is more than believing—it is trusting You enough to take action. Grow my faith to trust You even when I can't see the outcome, and give me the courage to bring my needs and the needs of others to Jesus. Help me remove anything that keeps me from drawing closer to You, and use my life to point others to Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, amen.