

RAISE
Ray Johnston
June 11

Digging Deeper

Mark 2:1-12

Sermon Review + Discussion

Pastor Ray has us looking deeper into the parable of the paralytic. In the story, a few men brought a friend to Jesus to be healed. They were very persistent in getting to Jesus and not letting anything stand in their way. These men were good friends with the paralytic, coming alongside a man in need. They had high expectations of Jesus to miraculously heal. Jesus publicly forgave the paralytic's sin. Only God has power to forgive sins. By forgiving the man's sins before healing Him, Jesus knew that his biggest need was not the need for physical but for spiritual healing. After Jesus forgave his sins, He healed his paralysis too. The man got up with new legs and a new life. This is a reminder that Jesus and His miracles are real. The belief and sacrifice of those closest to Jesus proves that Jesus is who He said He was. The people witnessing the account were amazed and glorified God.

Pastor Ray gives us the acronym RAISE. R, raise your expectations, our God can do mighty works! Even those we don't think to ask. A, anticipate obstacles, the friends would not be deterred. I, increase contact, get close to God and read The Word. There will be no impact, without contact. S, start serving, the friends served the paralytic by carrying him through obstacles to Jesus. E, expect great things from God, the paralytic was healed spiritually as well as physically. And the people who witnessed, went away with evidence that Jesus is who He always claimed to be.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why did they go to such great effort for Jesus to see this paralytic?
- 2) In this passage what is the relationship between their faith and their works?
- 3) What insights into Jesus' character do you have from this passage?
- 4) Do you believe that the greatest need we all have is to be forgiven of our sin? Are you willing to let Jesus go deeper in your life- to deal not just with surface level issues but to deal with the heart of the problem which is the problem of your heart?