

Mark 2:1-12

Faithful Friends and Forgiving Savior

1 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!”

Two things everyone needs

i. Faithful friends

ii. A Forgiving Savior

i. Faithful friends

Unifying Purpose verses 1-3

1. Their belief became their purpose - to bring their friend to Christ
2. They overcame apathy and fear
 - It is always easier not to share
 - It is more comfortable to stay silent.
 - There are always reasons why now isn't the best time.
 - You always have something else you could be doing

Unflappable Perseverance verse 4

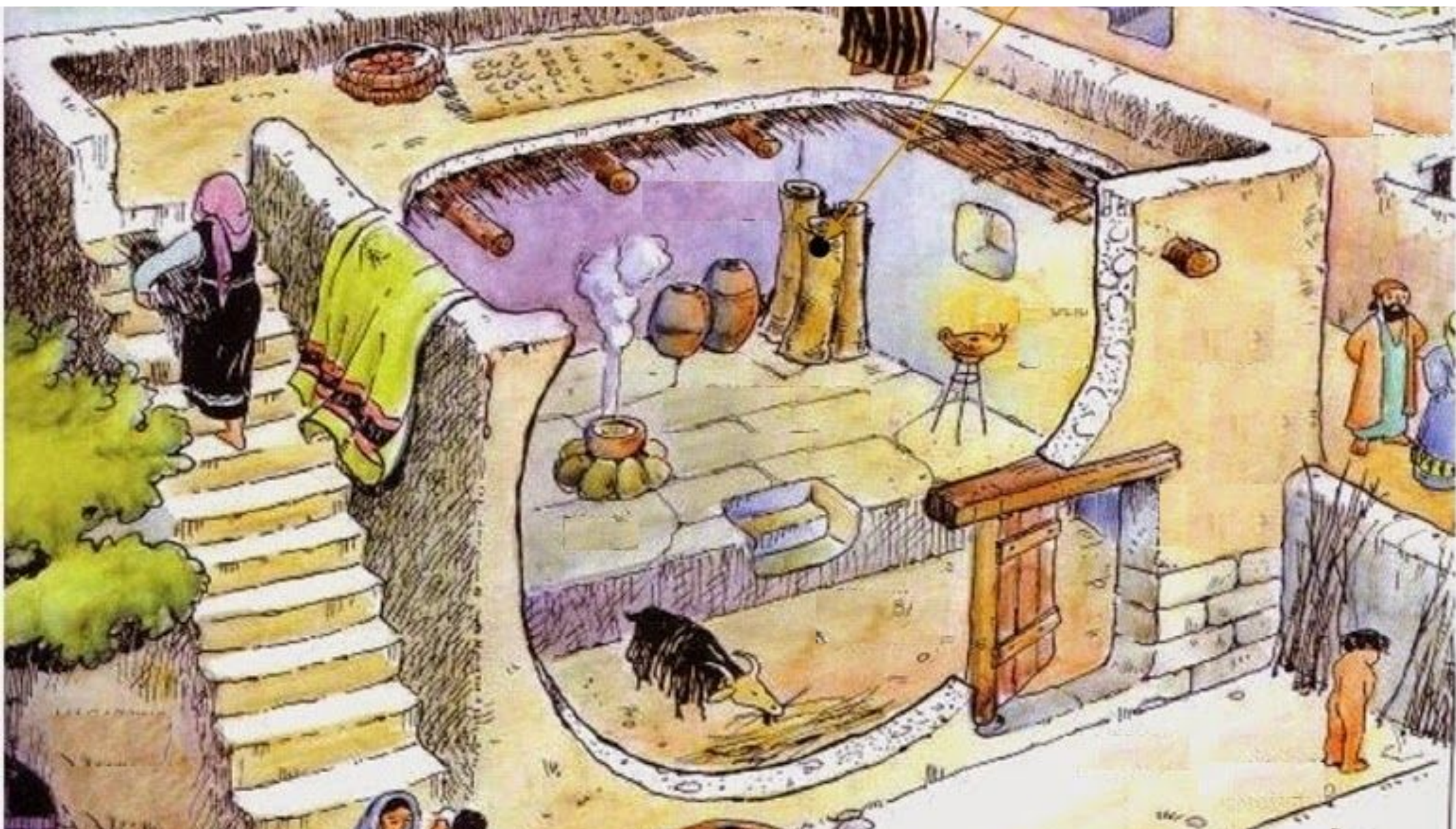
1. They overcame obstacles

- Doubt , Distance, Time, The crowd

2. They found a way

- Priority over Precedence
- Patience over Painless
- Persistence over Powerlessness

“God’s work done God’s way will bring God’s glory”



Undeniable Faith verse 5

They did not speak a word - the five did not talk, they trusted!

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God
2. Faith without action is dead – James 2:6
3. Faith brings results – when he saw, Jesus spoke words of healing, spiritually and physically



Unlimited Possibilities verses 6-12

1. His mighty promises

- Forgiveness of sins for all who confess
- Miracles as proof of His power

2. Our task is great but doable

- Win the world - great but finite
- With His love – infinite

ii. A Forgiving Savior

Preaching the Word verse 2

- His message – Repent and believe in God

Perceiving the Heart verses 5 and 8

1. The hearts of faith

- Their faith – included paralyzed man

2. The minds of criticism

- They had the right doctrine

“Only God can forgive sins” but wrong conclusion “this is blasphemy”

Because they did not know who Jesus was

Performing a Miracle 9-12

“Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs.

It meets the greatest need;

it costs the greatest price;

and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.”

- Wiersbe

Purpose:

Christ's miracles always had a purpose

a. Posed a question

Which is more difficult – Forgiving sin or healing ?

b. Proposed conclusion

So that you know I have the authority to forgive

c. Performed the miracles

He was immediately able to stand and walk

Praise

All who saw it praised God, “We never saw anything like this!”

Good News

Jesus is the same today!!!

How will we bring others to him?

Unifying process

Working together we can accomplish great things

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

- Romans 10:14.

Unflappable Perseverance

- What hindrances do we face?
- What “never done before” solutions can we find?
- Are we willing to give the time?
- Make the effort?
- And pay the cost?

Undeniable Faith

- What are you doing to show your faith?
- Have you torn any roofs off lately

Unlimited possibilities

Our only limits

- Lack of Compassion and purpose
- Lack of Perseverance
- Lack of Prayer
- Lack of Cooperation

Remember you were once this paralytic
Helpless and without hope

- Win the world – great task- but finite
- With His love – infinite

Action points

- **Remember** - Thank those who were instrumental in your salvation - Write or call them!
- **Look around** - One that you desire come to faith
- **Look up** - Find three others who will join you in prayer for that person
- **Expect results** - Do not let any obstacle keep you from sharing the gospel with that person