

The Healing Power of Jesus in my Life

Jesus Heals the Paralytic (Lk 5: 17-25)

One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.' Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you", or to say, "Stand up and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the one who was paralysed—'I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.' Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen strange things today.'

Please ponder the following persons/elements in this story:

Jesus

Bed/mat on which paralytic person is lowered

Paralytic person

Persons carrying and lowering the bed

The crowd – those who believe, Scribes angry with Jesus

The home where this story takes place

The roof material that must be moved away

Some Questions for Reflection

What did Jesus give the paralyzed person?

Who does the person on the bed/stretchers represent for me in my life?

- How is this person "paralyzed"?
- Who does this person depend on each day? (Who carries their stretchers?)
- What are they/you seeking for this person on the stretchers?

What are the tiles that need to be removed to get the person on the stretchers to Jesus' healing?

How is the healing power of Jesus present in my relationship with this person?

What does Jesus the Healer offer my colleagues/students/family?

Pulling it all Together:

Lord Jesus, I come to you as _____ in this healing story from your Gospel. When I am on the stretcher, give me _____. When I am helping to carry others, give me _____. When I am seeking to clear away obstacles to another's healing, give me _____. When I am entrusting a wounded person to you, give me _____. When I am in the crowd, doubting your healing presence in my life, in my work, give me _____. When others look to me to be part of their healing, give me _____.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for bringing me your healing each day, by the power of your grace moving in my life. Thank you for calling me to share your healing love with others. Let me be your hands, your feet, your heart for all those I meet each day. And let my reward be the joy of knowing you and sharing in your gift of abundant life. Amen.

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

– Teresa of Ávila
