



Daily Verse and Comment

Mark 2:3-5

(3) Then they came to Him, bringing a paraplegic borne by four *men*. (4) And since they were not able to come near to Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was; and after breaking *it* open, they let down the stretcher on which the paraplegic was lying. (5) Now when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paraplegic, "Child, your sins have been forgiven you."

Luke 5:18-20

(18) And behold, men came, carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; and they sought to bring him in and place him before Him. (19) But when they could not find a way to bring him in because of the multitude, they went up on the rooftop and lowered him with the stretcher through the tiles into the midst, directly in front of Jesus. (20) And seeing their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins have been forgiven you."

A Faithful Version

Four men arrive late, carrying a paralyzed man on his bed. When they realize that they cannot possibly get him through the door, they carry their helpless paralytic friend upstairs to the roof and lower the bed in front of [Jesus](#) as He is speaking. Their determination to place him before Jesus displays their [faith](#) that he would be healed. Instead of being deterred by the problem of the crowds, they see the possibilities for solving it. If they could only involve [God](#), they thought, things would go well. The persevering efforts of the four friends pay off for their paralytic friend as they help make possible his spiritual healing as well as his physical healing. Their actions are an example of the apostle James' statement in [James 2:18](#): "I will show you my faith by my works."

Christ finds faith in the friends, and He honors their faith, rather than any faith the sufferer has. Of course, no one can be saved by another's faith. Yet, another or others can help him along to Christ since only He can deliver him from the bondage of [sin](#). Being pleased with their works, which exhibited their faith, Christ responds to their resourcefulness and perseverance in behalf of their suffering friend. Their faith in Christ, then, is the catalyst in His performing this miracle. Our Savior works where faith is present ([Luke 5:20](#)). Obviously, He can perform His work anywhere regardless of human faith, but He often chooses not to act when people lack faith in Him, as happened in Nazareth ([Matthew 13:58](#)).

Hope motivates the paralytic's friends to manifest faith. First, their faith is a *wise* faith in that it brought the paralytic to the only One who could heal. Second, it is a *persistent* faith because it is undeterred by seemingly overwhelming obstacles. Third, it is a *sacrificial* faith in that it gives of its time and effort to bring the paralytic before Christ. Fourth, it is an *unintimidated* faith because it is unashamedly displayed in public. Fifth, it is a *humble* faith since the friends do not ask Jesus to come to him but take him to Jesus. Sixth, it is a *loving* faith because the friends willingly expend great effort to get him real help. Finally, it is an *active* faith in that they take the man to Christ rather than sit around complaining and grumbling about their friend's woeful condition.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Paralytic \(Part One\)](#)

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