

# JESUS HEALS A MAN WHO CAME THROUGH THE ROOF

Many people wanted to hear Jesus preaching. There was no more room at the home where he was. Some people came with a man who was lying on a stretcher. He was a paralyzed, which means he could not move. He wanted Jesus to heal him. His friends brought him to where Jesus was. When they came, they couldn't get him through the doorway because it was crowded. Instead, they went onto the roof.

They took pieces of the roof off, and then lowered their friend down in front of Jesus. They so wanted him healed, and they believed Jesus would do just that.

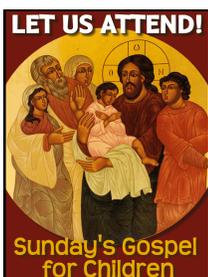
Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." So that you may know the Son of man can forgive sins, I say to the paralytic, 'Rise, take up your stretcher, and go home.' The man rose, and did just that. Everyone was amazed and said, "We never saw anything like this!"

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Before you answer some questions, imagine what it must have been like. Imagine a home made of mud brick, with a roof made from bundles of hay. Now imagine Jesus teaching the people crowded inside . . .
2. Why couldn't the paralytic, and his friends, come in through the door?
3. Where did they go because they couldn't walk in?
4. Did Jesus heal the man? How can you tell by looking at the icon?



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Pre-12



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**One day**, our Lord Jesus Christ went back to Caper'na-um. People found out that He was there and came to the house where He was. They all crowded in as close as they could. The house was packed! Everyone wanted to hear Jesus preaching.

Four men brought their friend who could not move by himself. They knew Jesus could help him. Because the house was so full of people, the four men could not get in the door. They really wanted their friend to get to Jesus, so they climbed onto the roof of the house. They took off part of the roof right over Jesus. Then, they lowered their friend to Him through the hole.

Jesus saw their faith and told the man, "Your sins are forgiven."

Some scribes were sitting in the crowd. When they heard this, they thought to themselves, "Why does this Man talk like that? How dare He say that? Only God can forgive sins!"

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "What is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up, pick up your mat and walk'? But so you all can know that I can forgive sins...." He turned to the man and said, "Get up, pick up your mat, and walk!"

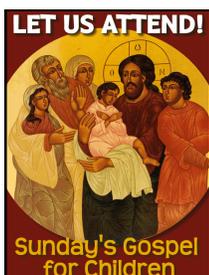
The man who could not move got right up, picked up his mat, and walked out of that house! Everyone who saw the miracle was amazed and praised God. They said, "We never saw anything like this!"



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why did so many people come to the house where Jesus was?
2. How many friends helped the man who could not move?
3. The friends really wanted to help the man get to Jesus. Because the house was so full, what did they do?
4. Were the scribes happy that Jesus said the man's sins were forgiven? How do you know?
5. Did Jesus heal the man? How do you know?
6. Would you have wanted to be in that house that day? Why or why not?



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# THE PARALYTIC GETS IN TO SEE JESUS

**At that time**, when Jesus returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who

can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'--he said to the paralytic--"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."

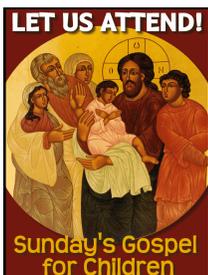
And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"



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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What happened when people found out that Jesus was in Caper'na-um?
2. Did the four men care about the paralyzed man? Why do you think that?
3. What does Jesus say to the paralyzed man first?
4. Why does Jesus later tell the paralyzed man to take up his pallet and go home?
5. How would you have felt if you were in the room that day and saw this happen?
6. Do you have faith that God can help your friends with their struggles? Bring your friends to Jesus in prayer, and ask Him for His help in their lives. You never know what wonderful thing He will do for them!



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Scribes, All the people

Narrator: At that time, when Jesus returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

Jesus: Son, your sins are forgiven.

Narrator: Now some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts,

Scribes: Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?

Narrator: And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them,

Jesus: Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins—

Narrator: he said to the paralytic,

Jesus: I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.

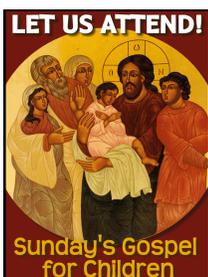
Narrator: And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,

All the people:

We never saw anything like this!



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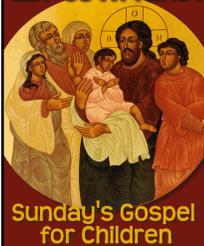


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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What happens when Jesus goes home?
2. What does this suggest about Jesus?
3. Do you think we can see Jesus today? Why or why not? If so, how?
4. What do the people in this Gospel do when they are in his home?
5. How is this similar to what we do at Church? How is it different?
6. Do you think we have anything in common with the people in this Gospel?

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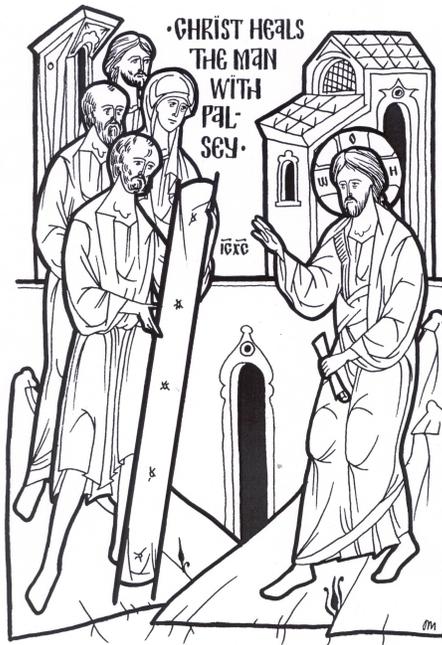
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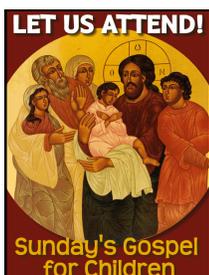
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## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What do the scribes ask?
2. Why are they asking it?
3. How does Jesus respond to them?
4. Why does Jesus heal the paralytic?
5. How do the people respond to Jesus healing the paralytic?
6. What does this suggest about having questions about Jesus or God? How do you think God would respond to our questions based on this Gospel?
7. Do you think we can ask God questions or not? Why or why not?



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