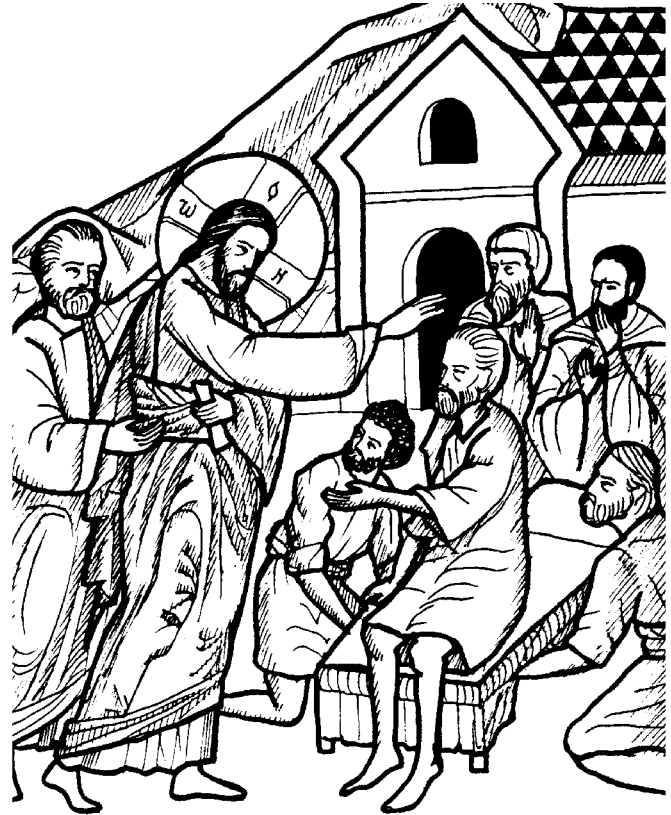


CHRIST FORGIVES AND HEALS

At that time, Jesus got into a boat and crossed over to his own city. They brought him a man on a stretcher who was paralyzed. They knew that Jesus could heal their friend.

Jesus could heal the man, and said, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” Some of the important people said, “This man thinks he is God—only God can forgive sins.” Jesus knew what they were thinking. He wanted them to realize that he was God.

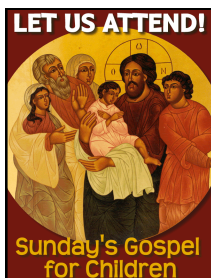
So, he asked them a question; “Which is easier, to forgive sins, or to make this man walk?” Then he said, “So that you know that the Son of man can forgive sins, watch.” Then he turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Rise, take up your bed and go home.” The man did so. It was a miracle. The people gave glory to God!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the icon. Find the stretcher. People who couldn't walk were carried by their friends on stretchers.
2. Jesus said, “Take heart,” to the man. He wanted the man to be hopeful of good things to come.
3. Jesus then forgave his sins. A sin is anything we do that hurts someone, or destroys something.
4. At the end of the story, did Jesus heal the man? How can you tell this by looking at the icon?



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JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ got into a boat and went to His own city. What He got there, some people brought a paralyzed man to Him. The man could not walk, so they brought him to Jesus on a mat.

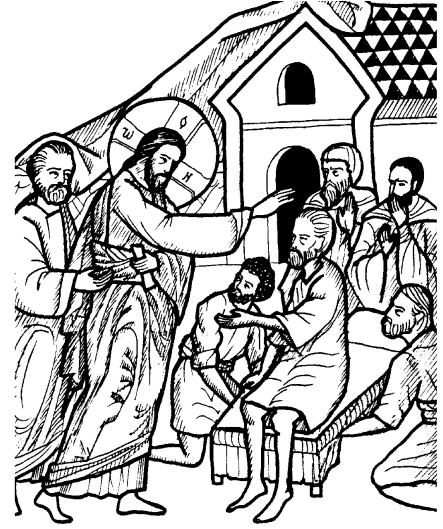
Jesus saw that they believed that He could heal their friend. He looked at the man and said, "Your sins are forgiven!"

Some of the important people from the synagogue were upset. They thought to themselves, "This man is acting like He is God. That is not good to do!"

But Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He asked them a question, "Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk?'"

Then, to show that He had the power to even forgive sins, Jesus told the man, "Get up! Pick up your mat, and go home!"

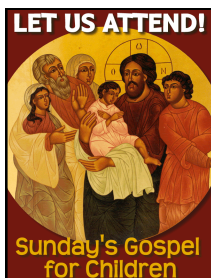
Right away the man got up and walked home! When all the people gathered there saw this, they were amazed. They glorified God for giving Jesus such great power.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who did Jesus meet soon after He came to His own city? Why did people bring him to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus tell the man?
3. Why did this upset the important people from the synagogue?
4. What did Jesus say to show that He had power even to forgive sins? What happened next?
5. Talk with your family or godfamily about the amazing things God has done for you. Then, like the people in the Gospel, glorify God for His great power!



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JESUS HEALS

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”

And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.”

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Rise and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” -- he then said to the paralytic -- “Rise, take up your bed and go home.”

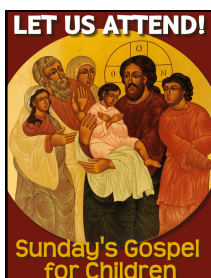
And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who was brought to Jesus in this Gospel? What does “paralytic” mean?
2. What did Jesus say, because of their faith?
3. Who thought Jesus was blaspheming? Jesus knew their thoughts. What did He do to show that He could forgive sins?
4. What did the crowds do when the paralytic was healed?
5. Like the paralytic in this Gospel, we all need healing. Maybe our bodies or minds don’t work the way they should. Maybe we are sad a lot or we had something difficult happen to us. Maybe we struggle with a certain sin. No matter what is wrong, Christ can heal us!



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JESUS HEALS

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Scribes

Narrator: At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic,

Jesus: Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.

Narrator: And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves,

Scribes: This man is blaspheming.

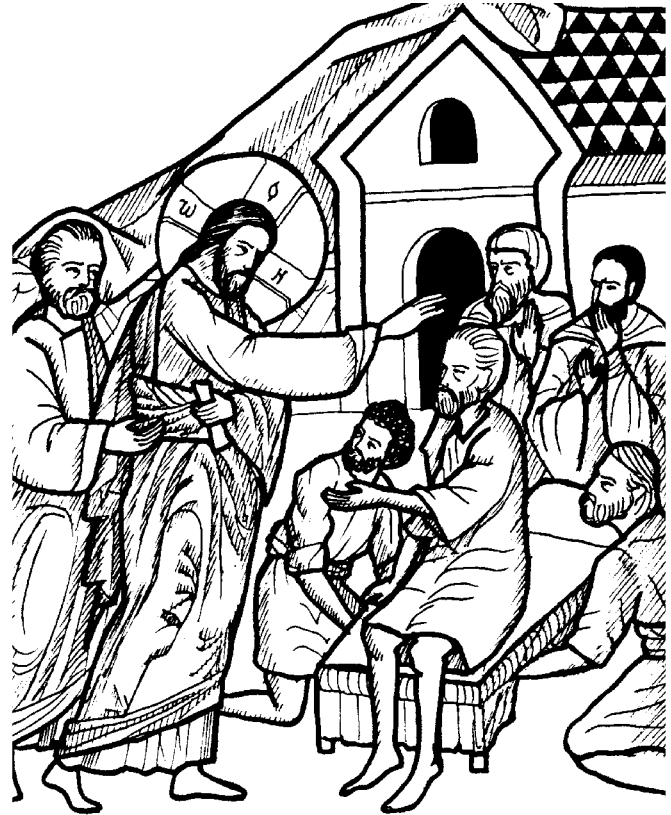
Narrator: But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said,

Jesus: Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say "Your sins are forgiven," or to say "Rise and walk?" But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins...

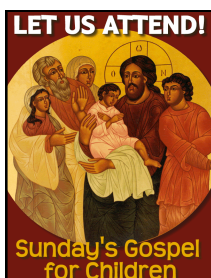
Narrator: He then said to the paralytic,

Jesus: Rise, take up your bed and go home.

Narrator: And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



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THE PARALYTIC CAN WALK

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home."

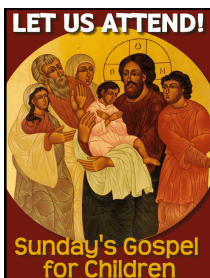
And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where did Jesus come to after crossing the sea?
2. What does that tell us about the people he meets in this gospel?
3. How do the scribes in his town react to him? Why would they say this about him?
4. How would you feel if people in your town talked about you this way?
5. Have you ever heard someone whisper things about someone behind her back? Why do you think people do that sometimes?
6. How does Jesus react to what the scribes are thinking?
7. What can you do when you hear someone whispering like the scribes or are tempted to think "evil thoughts" about someone?



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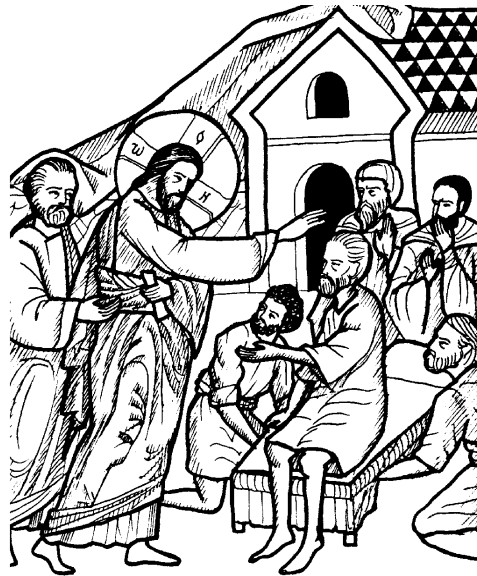
LIFT UP YOUR PALLET AND WALK

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming."

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home."

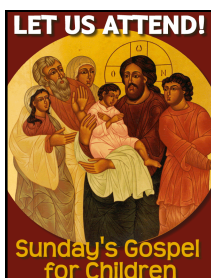
And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What is the first thing Jesus does for the paralyzed man?
2. What is the second thing Jesus does for him?
3. This gospel ends by saying that God "had given such authority" to whom?
4. What is this authority that God has given human beings?
5. What do you think about this gift?
6. Who do the crowds glorify for this gift?
7. What does this say about who is honored and glorified when we do good deeds?
8. How do you feel about this?



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