

united kingdom

THE PARALYSED MAN

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

(Luke 5:17-25; Matthew 9:8)

Jesus has authority to heal sickness, but better yet, to forgive our disobedience (our sin). The religious leaders realise that Jesus has put Himself in the place of not only the Promised King, but of God Himself. They reject that proposition – just as Scripture said they would ...

Introduction

Jesus was traveling, teaching people about God's Kingdom and healing the sick. Vast crowds of people came to listen and be healed.



Reaching Jesus

One day while Jesus was in a house teaching ... some men came carrying a paralysed man on a sleeping mat. They couldn't get to Jesus, so they went up onto the roof and lowered their friend right in front of Jesus.



Seeing their belief, Jesus said to the man, "Friend, all the things you've done to disobey God have been forgiven."

Religious Leaders' reaction

But the religious leaders said, "Who does He think He is? He's dishonouring God, because only God can forgive disobedience!"



Jesus' response

Jesus replied, "Is it easier to say 'Your disobedience is forgiven' or to say 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Promised King has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralysed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"



And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat and went home praising God.



Conclusion

Both fear and amazement swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for sending a man with such great authority.

Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. As can be seen in this story, there may be times or events which make it difficult for you to go directly to Jesus. Is there anything in your life like this at the moment? If there is, do you have you friends who are "carrying you" and supporting you? If you don't, then please make contact with your Connect group for help or the church office. We are a body, and as such, when one part is suffering we all suffer. There is nothing wrong with needing help; in fact, it is a fundamental part of being a follower of Jesus! We are called into a family who love and support each other – often imperfectly, but we try and want to get better at it. However, if this doesn't apply to you right now, do you know someone (either a believer or non-believer) who needs to be carried to Jesus? Someone who needs to hear the Good News about what Jesus can do for them? Ask God for the boldness to share with them!
2. In the last story we saw that Jesus has authority to heal. In this story, we see that He has authority to forgive sins. Do you believe that He has forgiven your sins, or do you still feel guilty about things that you've already asked forgiveness for? Ask Jesus to help you let go of your guilt and be truly free of all the guilt and shame hanging on to you.

Meditate on the following passage:

The Promised King in this story, Jesus, is the same King spoken of in Daniel 7:14: 'He was given authority, honour and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey Him. His rule is eternal – it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.' Spend some time meditating on Jesus' Kingship ... and allow this to fuel a time of worship for our King.