

ENCOUNTERING JESUS WITH A PARALYTIC

LUKE 5:17-26; MATTHEW 9:1-8; MARK 2:1-12

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city, Capernaum, and it was reported he was at home. On one of those days, many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. As he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking 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 midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; man, your sins are forgiven you.” And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question to themselves, in their hearts saying, “Why does this man speak like that? Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus, knowing their thoughts and perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, he answered them, “Why do you think evil and question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. When the crowds saw it, amazement seized them all, and they were afraid and filled with awe, saying, “We never saw anything like this! We have seen extraordinary things today.” And they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.