

INTRODUCTION: UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

- They came because Jesus' presence was in the house (V 1 & 2).
- Jesus saw their faith (V 5).
- There was a physical manifestation of faith (V 3 & 4). This moved Jesus.
- There will always be people critical of what Jesus can do (V 6 & 7).
- Jesus heard the thoughts of the Scribes (V 8 & 9) - Watch what you think.
- Jesus did what He did "... that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" (V 10).
- Faith will cause the power of Jesus to operate and God will be glorified (V 11 & 12).

This account is to inspire us when we face similar conditions – when we are vulnerable and dependent on others.

Miracles happen in times and places of need

- Surround yourself with people who can help your faith.
 - Two kinds of people surround you:
 - People you need – people who can carry you for a miracle to happen.
 - People who need you – people who feed off you and leave you when you are down.
 - Nobody gets to where they are by themselves. Four men carried the paralytic man into the presence of Jesus.
 - In His Presence, there are benefits (Psalm 16:11)

(Psalm 16:11)

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- It does not matter what your conditions are and who else is in the house.
 - The woman with the issue of blood.
 - Blind Bartimaeus.
 - Zacchaeus.
- Incapacitated people do not like to be in a crowd but incapacitated people with faith will fight their feelings.
 - They persevere to believe God for a miracle.
- Opposition comes when you are close to your miracle.
 - Praising and worshiping God at difficult times demonstrates your faith (e.g. Paul and Sias in prison).
 - Faith does not give up in the face of obstacles.

DIMENSIONS OF FAITH (PROGRESSION OF FAITH)

- The Position of Faith – your faith and God’s grace brings redemption.
 - Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven you.”
 - Faith defends itself – it has evidence.
 - Opposition will only help you to get what you believe God for.
 - So Jesus said, “Arise, take up your bed and walk.”
 - Your faith and God’s grace positionally restores you.
 - Do not be satisfied being saved or forgiven – go to the next dimension.
- The Condition of Faith – He was healed.
 - After Jesus forgave the paralytic man, He said, “Arise”- many are saved and forgiven but living in a condition of defeat.
 - The man of palsy was forgiven but not yet healed.
Jesus said, “As much as I can forgive you, I can also heal, deliver and bless you.”
- The Grip of Faith – “take up your bed.”
 - In faith, get a grip of what holds you.
 - The “bed” is a reminder that it was God who blessed you and keeps you humble.
- The Life of Faith - walk in your freedom.
 - Live by faith – keep your faith growing and going.
 - God will give to you where your feet walk.