

Matthew 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

Analysis

The phrase 'they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed' shows faith in action—friends brought the paralyzed man to Jesus. Jesus' response 'Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee' addresses the spiritual need before the physical, showing sin is humanity's primary problem. The term 'Son' expresses compassion. 'Be of good cheer' (Greek: *tharseō*) means 'take courage'—the forgiveness announcement should give confidence.

Historical Context

Mark and Luke record that the friends lowered the man through the roof—extraordinary faith and effort. Jesus saw 'their faith' (Mark 2:5), showing corporate faith on another's behalf. The paralysis may have resulted from sin, or Jesus addressed spiritual need first as the greater concern.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus prioritizing spiritual healing over physical challenge your priorities?
2. Whose faith can you emulate by bringing others to Jesus?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδοῦ, προσέφερον αὐτῶν παραλυτικῷ ἐπὶ κλίνης
And behold they brought their a man sick of the palsy on a bed
G2532 G2400 G4374 G846 G3885 G1909 G2825

βεβλημένον καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν
lying And seeing Jesus faith their
G906 G2532 G1492 G3588 G2424 G3588 G4102 G846

εἶπεν τῷ παραλυτικῷ Θάρσει τέκνον ἀφέωνταί
said a man sick of the palsy be of good cheer Son be forgiven
G2036 G3588 G3885 G2293 G5043 G863

σοί αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου
thee sins thy
G4671 G3588 G266 G4675

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:22 (Faith): But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Acts 19:12 (Parallel theme): So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

James 2:18 (Faith): Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Matthew 8:10 (Faith): When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Matthew 4:24 (Parallel theme): And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

John 21:5 (References Jesus): Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

Isaiah 44:22 (Sin): I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Acts 14:9 (Faith): The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

Romans 5:11 (References Jesus): And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Matthew 9:6 (Sin): But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.