



Miracle 1: Jesus heals a paralysed man lowered through the roof

Reference/read: Matthew 9:1-18, Mark 2: 1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Key word/phrase: "Friend"

Surprise: In all the commotion, Jesus saw the man's faith first and forgave him his sins.

Key teaching verse: v2b (Matthew's Gospel) *'When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

Teaching message: To Jesus, the man's and his friends' faith was the most important thing, this defined his eternal status. He saw the person first and called him "friend", how amazing is that? His disability wasn't as important to Jesus as his faith and he only restored the use of the man's legs to prove to the doubters that he had the authority to forgive sins too. That isn't to trivialise the man's disability, or diminish the impact on him of his healing, but to emphasise that in eternal terms faith is more important than healing.

Discussion questions: (1) Why was the man's and his friends' faith most important to Jesus? (2) Why do we so often see the disability first and not the person and their faith? (3) What does it mean to be like the man's friends, letting nothing stop us helping our disabled friends to access church?

See separate blog post: <https://theadditionalneedsblogfather.com/2017/02/17/faith-more-important-than-healing/>

And a contemporary re-telling of the story is here:

<https://theadditionalneedsblogfather.com/2019/11/12/i-walked-home/>