

LIFE TOGETHER

with the People of Franklin United Methodist Church

Welcome & Introductions

“How is it with you?”

How are you feeling?

How is your faith? your family? your health?

Are you struggling or celebrating?

Are you grieving or rejoicing?

Are you questioning faith?

Where have you found inspiration?

Praying Together

Mark 2:1-12

Common English Bible

After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. ² So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door. Jesus was speaking the word to them. ³ Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. ⁴ They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven!”

⁶ Some legal experts were sitting there, muttering among themselves, ⁷ “Why does he speak this way? He's insulting God. Only the one God can forgive sins.”

⁸ Jesus immediately recognized what they were discussing, and he said to them, “Why do you fill your minds with these questions? ⁹ Which is easier—to say to a paralyzed person, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take up your bed, and walk’? ¹⁰ But so you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed, ¹¹ “Get up, take your mat, and go home.”

¹² Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, “We've never seen anything like this!”

Matthew 9:1-8

Common English Bible

Boarding a boat, Jesus crossed to the other side of the lake and went to his own city. ² People brought to him a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man who was paralyzed, “Be encouraged, my child, your sins are forgiven.”

³ Some legal experts said among themselves, “This man is insulting God.”

⁴ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Why do you fill your minds with evil things? ⁵ Which is easier—to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶ But so you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“Get up, take your cot, and go home.” ⁷ The man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowds saw what had happened, they were afraid and praised God, who had given such authority to human beings.

Luke 5:17-26

Common English Bible

One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ¹⁸ Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. ²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹ The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, “Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!”

²² Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, “Why do you fill your minds with these questions? ²³ Which is easier—to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But so that you will know that the Human One has authority on the earth to forgive sins”—Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home.” ²⁵ Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

²⁶ All the people were beside themselves with wonder. Filled with awe, they glorified God, saying, “We've seen unimaginable things today.”

Discussion

What kind of faith did the paralyzed man's friends have? What did they believe (and trust!) that Jesus could do?

Do you have the same faith as the paralyzed man's friends? Do you believe and trust that Jesus can do for your friends what Jesus did for the paralyzed man? Why or why not?

How determined do you think the friends were to get their friend to Jesus?

How determined are we to lead our friends to Jesus?

‘Till We Meet Again