

# THE SERVANT KING RECOGNIZES GENUINE FAITH

## (Mark 2:1-12)

*Interest is a good place to start but faith is the necessary response to the Gospel so that one's sins can be forgiven. Five men in this text display what real faith is all about. Today we examine the difference between genuine faith and mere interest, and how the Lord responds to them.*

### I. THE DISPLAY OF GENUINE FAITH (vv.1-4)

1. The action of genuine faith.
  - Crowds draw crowds and Peter's home is packed.
  - Four men carry a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They believe Jesus can heal their friend.
    - They cannot get people to budge and only receive indignant rebuffs.
    - After a lot of hauling and shoving and heaving and lifting, they finally reach the roof.
    - The man is lowered by ropes to the floor beneath.
2. The attitude of genuine faith.
  - Genuine faith is driven by hope.
  - Genuine faith is persistent.
  - Genuine faith is willing to sacrifice to get there.
3. Genuine faith knows Christ is the only way.

### II. JESUS RECOGNIZES AND RESPONDS TO GENUINE FAITH (vv.5-12)

1. Notice it says, "Jesus saw *their* faith." That's a plural pronoun.
  - He honors their faith which includes the paralyzed man.
2. Now the focus shifts specifically to the paralytic.
  - Jesus calls him "son" which translates (Hb. *beni*) "my son"
    - It's more than endearment; it also describes a position of a superior who acts with authority and benevolence.
3. Jesus pronounces forgiveness of his sins.
  - His physical need, though a horrible plight, is nothing compared to his eternal need.
  - Often we miss our greatest need because we see the problem as the circumstances.
  - But Jesus sees our greatest need are not those things—our greatest need is Him!
4. The focus shifts again, now from the paralytic to the scribes and Pharisees.
  - Instead of love, there is indifference.
  - Instead of faith, there is criticism.
5. Only God can forgive sins and Jesus proves it.
  - His question: "Which is greater to do, forgive sins or heal this man in an instant?"
6. Jesus calls Himself the "Son of Man."
  - In the Old Testament it was used to mean "human being," such as in Psalm 144:3-4.
  - But it also referred to the Messiah who would come and establish God's kingdom.
  - Jesus was declaring both. He is God who became man to die for our sins.

*"Faith is first and foremost not knowledge about Jesus but active trust that Jesus is sufficient for one's deepest and most heartfelt needs."—James Edwards*

Do you have genuine faith? Will you do anything it takes to get people to Jesus?