



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

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SOSJ Accountability 1: Our need for others Saturday, August 24, 2024

Mark: 2: 1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?” Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, “Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth”—he said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.” He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

Questions

1. Man and woman were created to love each other in community. Why is a purely individual faith not Christian? How critical is it that I bring the faith to others?
2. Jesus cured the man when He saw the “faith” of his friends. How can a stronger faith have a greater impact on relationship with God? on relationship with neighbor? How do I teach my children that we must help others grow closer to Christ if we are to grow in faith ourselves?
3. These men overcame incredible obstacles to get close to Christ; we merely have to enter any Church for the same Physical Presence. How much do we take the Faith for granted? Why does God permit such obstacles to the faith? Like the Pharisees here, what are common excuses we use to avoid the deeper faith commitment?
4. Like the scribes, when we see something good happening that we do not control, we can begin to criticize it or discourage others from it, at work, amongst family, in a parish, etc. Why would disciples do such a thing so antithetical to Christ? What are ways in which we have seen this happen, or even do it ourselves? How do we overcome this subtle form of envy?