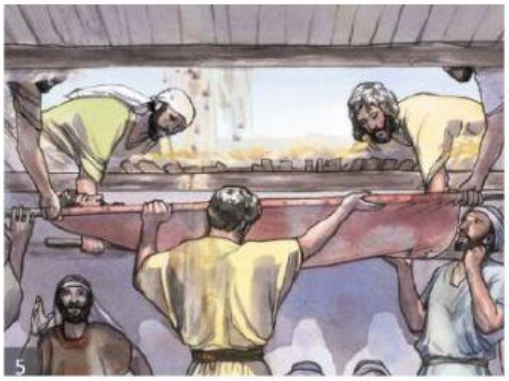
The Nature of God
Who Can Forgive Sins



The Bible says that after digging through the roof, the men lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on down to where Jesus was.

Imagine listening carefully to Jesus when all of a sudden you hear something coming from above you. The ceiling is crumbling a bit, and everyone stops and looks up to see what's going on.

I'm sure Jesus was smiling as the man was being lowered down. These men were so sure that Jesus would be able to heal him. Otherwise, they wouldn't have gone to so much trouble.

The first thing Jesus said when He saw that they believed was, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Probably not what the man expected, he came to Jesus because he wanted to walk.

Except that Jesus knew what this man needed most because he knew what was in his heart. Jesus knew that being paralyzed would be difficult, but it was even worse not to be forgiven.

Well, some of the teachers of the law heard Jesus forgive the man, and they began thinking, "How dare this man to forgive sins, only God can do that."

Immediately Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?" Which probably startled the men because Jesus knew what they were thinking!

Jesus also asked them, "Which was easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

This might be a bit hard to understand but I think Jesus was trying to get through to the teachers of the law and tell them that He was the Son of Man, and God has given him the power to forgive sins and heal people. These things could not be done by just a regular person but only by God.

Then, before He was finished Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home."

The Bible says that the man got up, took his mat, and walked out in full view of them all. I just have to wonder how the man reacted when he was suddenly told that he could get up and go home?!

I'm thinking he thanked Jesus and maybe even gave him a big hug! He could've laughed and maybe did a little dance on his way out. He probably didn't go straight home either...what a day that would've been for him and his friends!

The crowd was very amazed, and they praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Directions: Read the passage then answer the questions.

1. What type of illness did the man have?

paralyzed blind deaf dumb

2a. Was Jesus happy to see the man being lowered down? Write yes or no. _____

2b. Explain your answer with evidence from the passage.

A. "I'm sure Jesus was shouting as the man was being lowered down."

B. "I'm sure Jesus was running as the man was being lowered down."

C. "I'm sure Jesus was smiling as the man was being lowered down."

3. Quote, the sentence in paragraph six to tell what the teachers of the law said.

A. "How dare this man forgive sins, only Peter can do that."

B. "How dare this man forgive sins, only the priest can do that."

C. "How dare this man forgive sins, only God can do that."

4. '***Which probably startled the men.***' What is the meaning of the word ***startled*** in this passage?

(a) start (b) left (c) frightened (d) calm

5. What was Jesus trying to get the teachers of the law to understand?

A. He was the Son of Man, and God has given him the power to forgive sins and heal people.

B. He was the Mary of Man, and God has given him the power to forgive sins and heal people.

C. He was not the Son of Man, and God has given him the power to forgive sins and heal people.

6. Write **T** if the statements are true. Write **F** if the statements are false.

_____Jesus said to take up your bed and go home.

____ Jesus could not read the teachers' minds.

____The crowd was surprised at what Jesus did.

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