

## RAZING THE ROOF

### I. Mark 12:1-12

A. I imagine just about everyone knows someone who is paralyzed. Their paralysis may have come from a stroke, from a spinal cord injury, or resulted from a neurological disease. I once worked in a field where numerous people were confined to wheelchairs with minimal mobility. I also saw many make great strides in overcoming their respective disabilities.

B. As you hear this message today and follow along in your Bibles, let me ask you to whisper a prayer for folks you know who are suffering from total or partial paralysis. And pray also for people working in the field of research who are endeavoring to discover cures in all the realms of neurological maladies.

C. Mark 2:1-12 (ESV) tells us about a man brought to Jesus who was paralyzed. Just to get him to Jesus was no small ordeal.

1) **V1** *"And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home."* (Capernaum had become Jesus' adopted hometown, His Galilean base of operations. More specifically it was probably the home of Simon Peter. Maybe they called it, "The Rock House.")

2) **V2** *"And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And He was preaching the word to them."* (They're having a house church meeting. The Word that Jesus was preaching was about the Kingdom of God, the rule and reign of God, the ownership of all things by its Creator, the imminent and unfolding redemption of man's fall from his Maker. Before them was the One *Who* would fulfill all righteousness, *Who* would effect the rescue, *Who* would accomplish the long-promised redemption, *Who* would usher in this Kingdom. The King of kings is the One preaching and they are clueless! Don't you be clueless!)

3) **V3-4** *"And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay."* (Roofs of many homes in that day were framed with wooden beams and covered with branches interlaced with dried clay. Or, as excavations have revealed, some roofs were actually covered with clay tiles. Bottom line: They tore the roof off the place to get the paralyzed man in front of Jesus! They razed the roof!)

4) **V5-7** *"And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" Now some of the scribes (teachers of the law) were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this Man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"* (The problem isn't their theology; their problem is accurately recognizing *Who* was making the declaration! We do not have the ability to forgive a man's sins against God, only God can do that. Our God is a just God. He's a just Judge. If a heinous crime was committed against one of your loved ones but a judge declared the perp *'not guilty'* then the judge himself would be unjust. But if the Judge Himself takes on the guilt of the guilty and suffers the penalty, this loving and just Judge can declare forgiveness.)

5) **V8-9** *"And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, 'Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk?'"* (Jesus is no ordinary Man. He is God. And the declaration of forgiveness is greater than the healing about to follow. The stretcher-bearers and the paralyzed man had faith and the object of their faith was Jesus. The physical healing was the easier miracle as it visibly reflected what our Lord would accomplish by dying on the cross for the forgiveness of sins to all who would believe. So do you believe? Has it sunk in that your sins can be forgiven?)

6) **V10-12** *"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic-- "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"* (He came through the roof but left through the front door with the astonished crowd parting as he went!)

D. We would be amiss not to give kudos to the four brothers who carried this paralyzed man to Jesus. In many ways we should try and emulate their resolute hearts, how they teamed up and did whatever necessary to bring someone to Christ Jesus. They should inspire us as a church family to do the same.

E. But most important is this: it would be a terrible tragedy to be healed of paralysis, or anything physical, only to die without your sins being forgiven. Your guilt and shame and sin against God may have you spiritually paralyzed but if you could just take hold of the gift of faith, offered by Jesus, aimed at Himself, you too can take up your bed and walk, truly walk, out of here today! And not just outta here, but down the road, all the way home, and into endless tomorrows.

F. Know this: No paralyzed man or woman who dies with faith in Christ will be resurrected as a paralytic. They will all go forth walking and leaping and praising God and do so forevermore. If the New Heavens and Earth truly have

streets paved with gold, you can be among those who sprint or dance or skip up and down those boulevards! But those who can presently run like the wind or fly like Superman, but who die without Christ, will find themselves in a chronic state of spiritual paralysis that will never allow them to get near to God ever again. That must not be you! It would be better to enter the grave as a quadriplegic with faith in Jesus than as a gold medal Olympian who has rejected Him!

\* Close with the lyrics to "*Physician of Souls*" by Benjamin Beddome and Prayer...  
[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Mark 2:1-12 \(ESV\)](#)

1 And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And He was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic-- 11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

### Physician of Souls

By Benjamin Beddome - Circa 1818

Jesus, thou mad'st the lame to walk,  
The deaf Thy voice to hear;  
The silent tongue begins to talk,  
The sick their couches bear.

Devils depart at Thy command,  
The blind their Saviour see;  
Thou bid'st the man with withered hand,  
Stretch out that hand to Thee.

Lepers from Thee obtained relief,  
Oh cleanse my spotted soul!  
Ease every pain, and every grief,  
Dear Jesus, make me whole!

Bodies bereaved of life and breath,  
Thou calledst from the grave;  
Oh save me from the second death,  
For Thou hast power to save.

I'm blind and lame, and deaf and dumb,  
And every sickness feel;  
Oh come, Thou Great Physician, come,  
For Thou alone can'st heal.

- Benjamin Beddome (1717-1795) is a largely forgotten 18th Century English Baptist preacher, remembered today only as a minor hymnwriter. For over half a century he served as pastor of the Baptist church meeting at Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. He is worth more than a passing glance. "*Benjamin Beddome, a saved Son of Adam, for 55 years preached in Bourton, the blast from His trumpet not uncertain.*"

### [Film Clips & Other Links](#)

**Can God Forgive People Who Murder, Molest, Rape? - John Piper**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWDOpJinX\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWDOpJinX_0)

**Jesus Heals the Paralytic - RodTheNey**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LqHYkGU4Zg>

"Alone Yet Not Alone" Performed by Joni Eareckson Tada  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWVyVMbSzM4>

Jesus Heals A Paralyzed Man - Liquid Kids  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1oXf\\_eUjxQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1oXf_eUjxQ)

"He's Able" - Daniel Lee (4 Years Old)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VdZeMSDTXQ>

Paralytic Jaquie Goncher Walks & Dances at Her Wedding - Inside Edition  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zllMu81XDHU>

Paralyzed Bride Jennifer Darmon Walks at Wedding - ABC News  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmJ5CJ4pmbQ>

### Bonus Stuff

#### Luke 5:17-26 (ESV)

**17** On one of those days, as He was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Him to heal. **18** And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, **19** but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. **20** And when He saw their faith, He said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." **21** And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **22** When Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? **23** Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? **24** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." **25** And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. **26** And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

#### Matthew 9:2-8 (ESV)

**2** And behold, some people brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, My son; your sins are forgiven." **3** And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." **4** But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? **5** For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? **6** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." **7** And he rose and went home. **8** When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

#### John 5:1-24 (NLT)

**1** Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. **2** Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda, with five covered porches. **3** Crowds of sick people--blind, lame, or paralyzed--lay on the porches. **5** One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, He asked him, "Would you like to get well?" **7** "I can't, Sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me." **8** Jesus told him, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" **9** Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath, **10** so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, "You can't work on the Sabbath! The law doesn't allow you to carry that sleeping mat!" **11** But he replied, "The Man who healed me told me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" **12** "Who said such a thing as that?" they demanded. **13** The man didn't know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. **14** But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, "Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you." **15** Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16** So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. **17** But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." **18** So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill Him. For He not only broke the Sabbath, He called God His Father, thereby making Himself equal with God. **19** So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing. In fact, the Father will show Him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. **21** For just as the Father gives life to those He raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone He wants. **22** In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, He has given the Son absolute authority to judge, **23** so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent Him. **24** "I tell you the

truth, those who listen to My message and believe in God who sent Me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

#### Luke 14:7-14 (NLT)

7 When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, He gave them this advice: 8 "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? 9 The host will come and say, 'Give this person your seat.' Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table! 10 "Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, 'Friend, we have a better place for you!' Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. 11 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." 12 Then He turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," He said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

#### Acts 3:1-10 (ESV)

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

#### Acts 9:32-35 (ESV)

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

#### Theological Note on Mark 2:9-11

The ESV Study Bible

*Mark 2:9-11: 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic-- 11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."*

**Mark 2:9-11: Which is easier...?** On the surface, of course, it is easier to say the words, "**Your sins are forgiven,**" because that is something invisible and impossible to disprove. But it is harder to say, "**take up your bed and walk**" because, if the the man does not get up, the one who said the words will be shown to have no authority to heal. On a deeper level, however, it is harder to forgive sins, because only God can forgive sins--at the cost of Christ's death on the cross. The logic here is that, since Jesus can do the visible miracle (heal the paralytic), this is evidence that He also has the power to do the invisible miracle (forgive sins).

- Theological Note on Mark 2:9-11, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 1896.

#### He's Able, He's Able

Words & Music by Paul E. Paino © 1958

He's able, He's able,  
I know He's able,  
I know my Lord is able  
To carry me through. (Repeat)

He healed the broken-hearted  
And set the captive free,  
He made the lame to walk again  
And caused the blind to see.

He's able, He's able,  
I know He's able,  
I know my Lord is able  
To carry me through.

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic at Capernaum - Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26** Commentary from Bible Study Tools, The Fourfold Gospel

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/the-fourfold-gospel/by-sections/jesus-heals-a-paralytic-at-capernaum.html>