The Healing of the Paralytic

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4 Thoughts on Going to Jesus with your Needs:

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1. Instead of being passive about what Jesus might do, actively go to Jesus, regardless of the obstacles and challenges you may have.

Verses 1-4:

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."

Instead of being passive about what Jesus might do, actively go to Jesus, regardless of the obstacles and challenges you may have.

- The "Crowd" vs the "Four men"

- James Edwards: "Faith is...active trust that Jesus is sufficient for one's deepest and most heartfelt needs."

Questions for Reflection:

1) Are you more like the crowd or like the 4 friends?

2) What obstacles are holding you back today?

James Edwards: "The crowd stands and observes; disciples must commit themselves to action, as illustrated by the plucky squad of four. If an opening to Jesus cannot be found, one must be made. That is the description of faith - to get to Jesus."

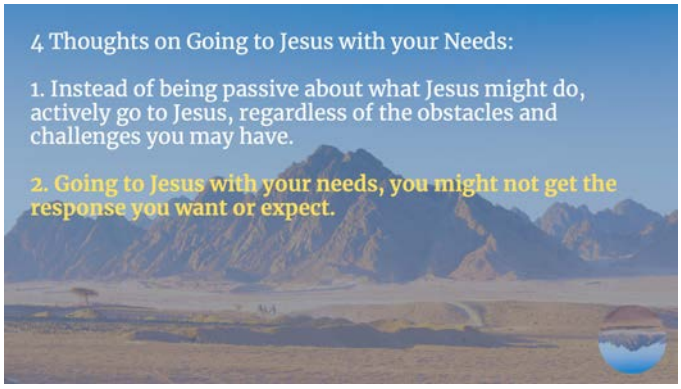
One more thought:

Actively go to Jesus with your conviction...or with your lack of conviction...or with your weary conviction.

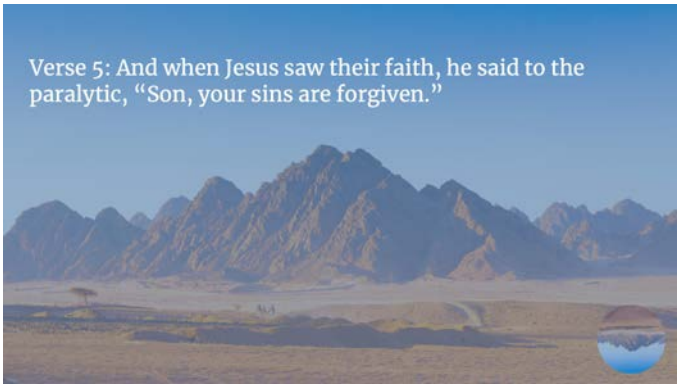
4 Thoughts on Going to Jesus with your Needs:

1. Instead of being passive about what Jesus might do, actively go to Jesus, regardless of the obstacles and challenges you may have.

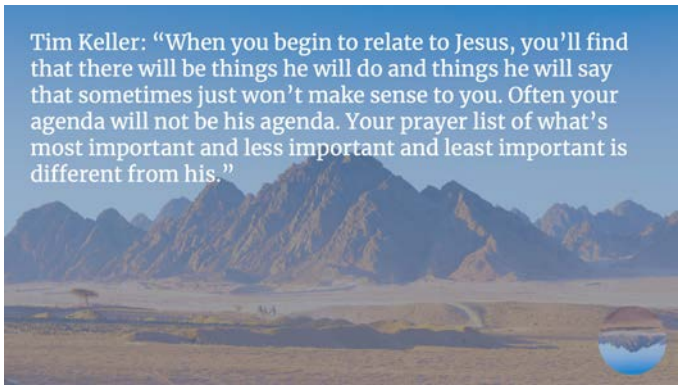
2. Going to Jesus with your needs, you might not get the response you want or expect.



Verse 5: And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

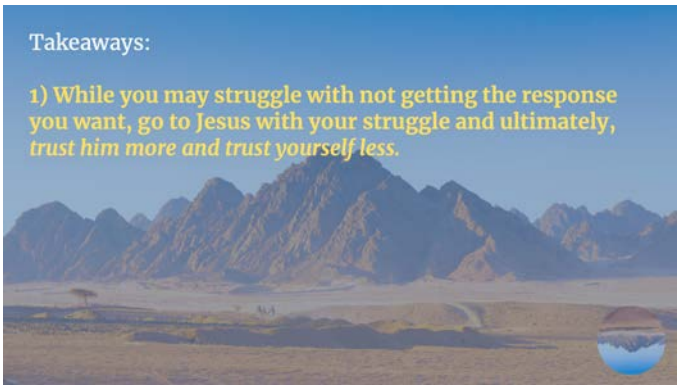


Tim Keller: "When you begin to relate to Jesus, you'll find that there will be things he will do and things he will say that sometimes just won't make sense to you. Often your agenda will not be his agenda. Your prayer list of what's most important and less important and least important is different from his."



Takeaways:

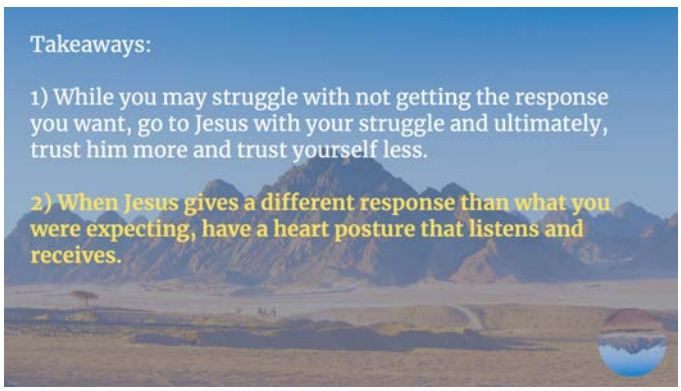
1) While you may struggle with not getting the response you want, go to Jesus with your struggle and ultimately, *trust him more and trust yourself less.*



Takeaways:

1) While you may struggle with not getting the response you want, go to Jesus with your struggle and ultimately, trust him more and trust yourself less.

2) When Jesus gives a different response than what you were expecting, have a heart posture that listens and receives.

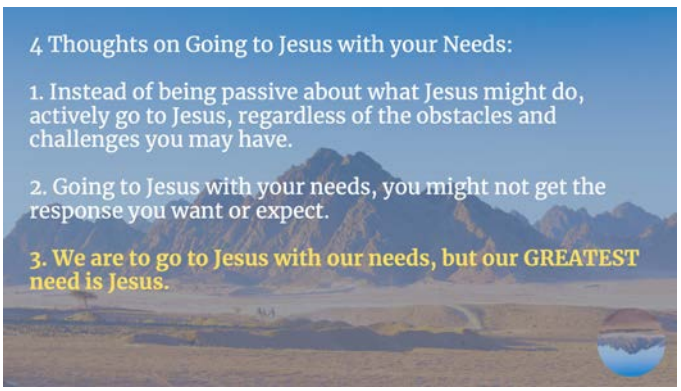


4 Thoughts on Going to Jesus with your Needs:

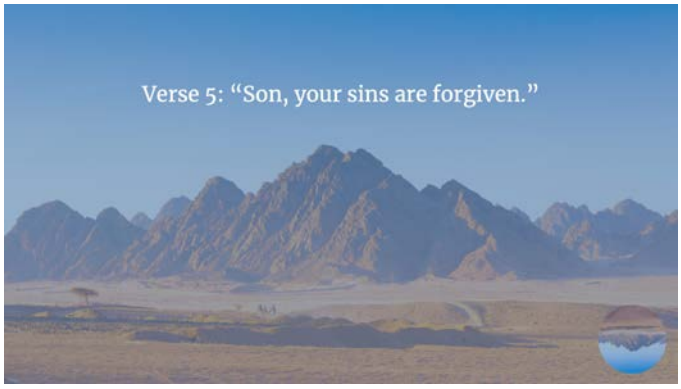
1. Instead of being passive about what Jesus might do, actively go to Jesus, regardless of the obstacles and challenges you may have.

2. Going to Jesus with your needs, you might not get the response you want or expect.

3. We are to go to Jesus with our needs, but our GREATEST need is Jesus.

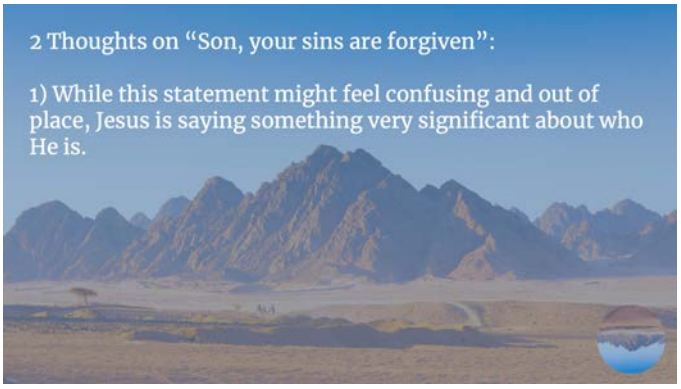


Verse 5: "Son, your sins are forgiven."



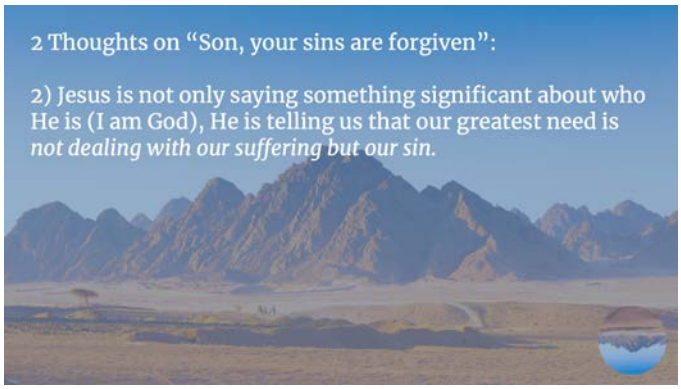
2 Thoughts on "Son, your sins are forgiven":

1) While this statement might feel confusing and out of place, Jesus is saying something very significant about who He is.



2 Thoughts on "Son, your sins are forgiven":

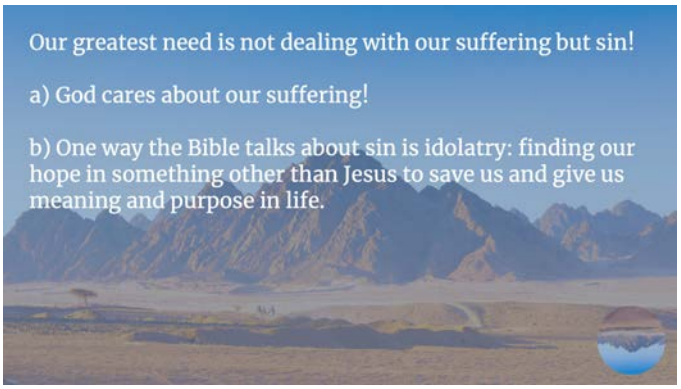
2) Jesus is not only saying something significant about who He is (I am God), He is telling us that our greatest need is *not dealing with our suffering but our sin.*



Our greatest need is not dealing with our suffering but sin!

a) God cares about our suffering!

b) One way the Bible talks about sin is idolatry: finding our hope in something other than Jesus to save us and give us meaning and purpose in life.



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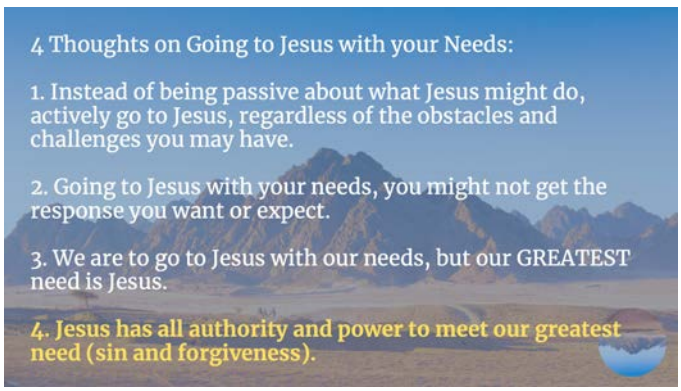
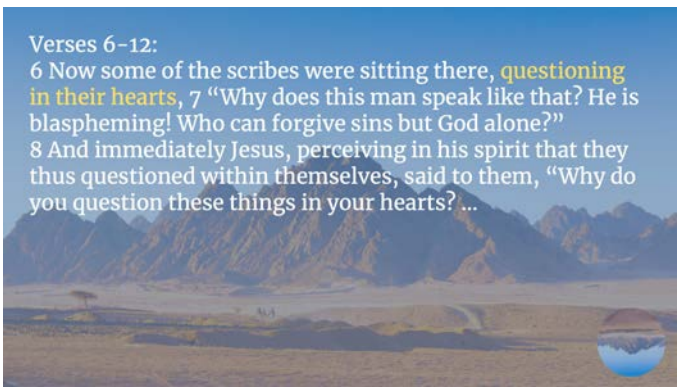
2. Going to Jesus with your needs, you might not get the response you want or expect.

3. We are to go to Jesus with our needs, but our GREATEST need is Jesus.

4. Jesus has all authority and power to meet our greatest need (sin and forgiveness).



Verses 6-12:
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!”

Jesus heals this man to show that He has power and authority to meet our greatest need and provide forgiveness of sins.

What is your response?

Jason Meyer: “How do the miracles of Jesus relate to the message of Jesus? The miracles are not the point; they are pointers. Jesus can do what no one else can do because He is God. The miracles confirm the message: Behold your God! He has come! And this story in particular demonstrates that Jesus did not come merely to show the power of God but to bring the salvation of God. The man left carrying his bed, but he no longer carried the burden of sins on his back.”

Prayer of Confession (Scotty Smith):

Reader: Heavenly Father, for your steadfast love, we bless you. For your patience and kindness, we praise you. For your daily mercies, we trust you.

ALL: Thank you that you’ve already declared us righteous in Christ, and now you’re at work to make us as beautiful as Jesus.

Reader: Here are some of the areas of heart and life for which we need grace and the Spirit’s work - clear manifestations we’re not as Christlike as you intend:

ALL:

We confess thinking of ourselves too much and marveling at Jesus too little.

We confess it’s easier for us to rush to judgment than linger in your presence.

We confess over-believing our fears and under-resting in the gospel.

We confess scheduling ourselves into bad attitudes and diminishing health.

ALL:

We confess indulging a critical spirit more than we seek your Spirit's filling.

We confess being more upset by the news than at peace through your Word.

We confess making more of other's sins and weaknesses than our own.

Reader: Father, thank you for the full forgiveness we already have in Christ, and the sure hope of being like Jesus one day.

ALL: We look to you for strength to repent quicker than you convict us of these and other sins. Humble us. Change us. Heal us. Free us. Thank you, Jesus.

Reader: So if you are in Christ, hear the words of Jesus saying to you, "Your sins are forgiven." And they are!

ALL: Thanks be to God!