

Jesus Saw Their Faith

Matthew 9:1-8 & Mark 2:1-12

Welcome back and here we go. We will be working in the new unit for the next few weeks, but our bible instruction will continue through this project. Today, we pick up where we left off, in Matthew 9. Remember, one of the primary thrusts of Matthew is to present Jesus as Messiah. In Chapters 8 & 9 we see Jesus as Lord over leprosy, over time and space, over sickness, over the elements, wind, sea, storms, over demons and now we see Him over paralysis and able to forgive sin, as well as knowing thoughts.

Matthew 9:1-8 & Mark 2:1-12

- 1) What do you like about this story?

Obviously, we see some people (friends, family, doctors?). It doesn't say. But what we do know is they had faith. This isn't a guess. It is a) stated fact and b) obvious in their behavior. They believed God/Jesus could and would heal this man.

Mark 2:1-5

- 2) Why is it so hard to believe God will heal or do the miraculous because of your prayers?

I think often we get unsettled or wavering in our faith because

- a) We don't know what God wants. His will.
- b) We feel unworthy.
- c) We have prayed before and didn't get results.
- d) We don't know what God's Word says about it.

- 3) Which is most likely you?

I personally believe that the Holy Spirit will prompt me as to how to pray, that if I pray with a prayer not predetermined, but with a flow from my inner being, I can trust that prayer.

4) Do we pray selfishly?

This means do we ask for stuff because it is what we want --- to ease our worry, sadness, stress...

Sometimes God wants people to go through their trials, so He may not agree, although it is certain He knows our thoughts. Perhaps if our prayers were directed in a way that aligns our thoughts with God's heart.....

Luke 5:16-17

5) What does it mean "*the power... was present to heal them*"?

You know unbelief in the heart will block prayers.

James 1:2-8

6) Why do we doubt?

I think we all have various reasons in various prayers but the truth is it usually goes back to question 3. The truth is

The power of God is always present if you are in that space. You always bring Jesus and the Holy Spirit, so the question becomes *am I in tune or am I in self?*

The one thing I know for certain is this:

James 5:13-18

7) What is fervent prayer?

Let's pray now for someone else.