



Faithful Friends

(Mark 2:1-12)



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I. Direction: The way to Jesus

(Mark 2:1-3)

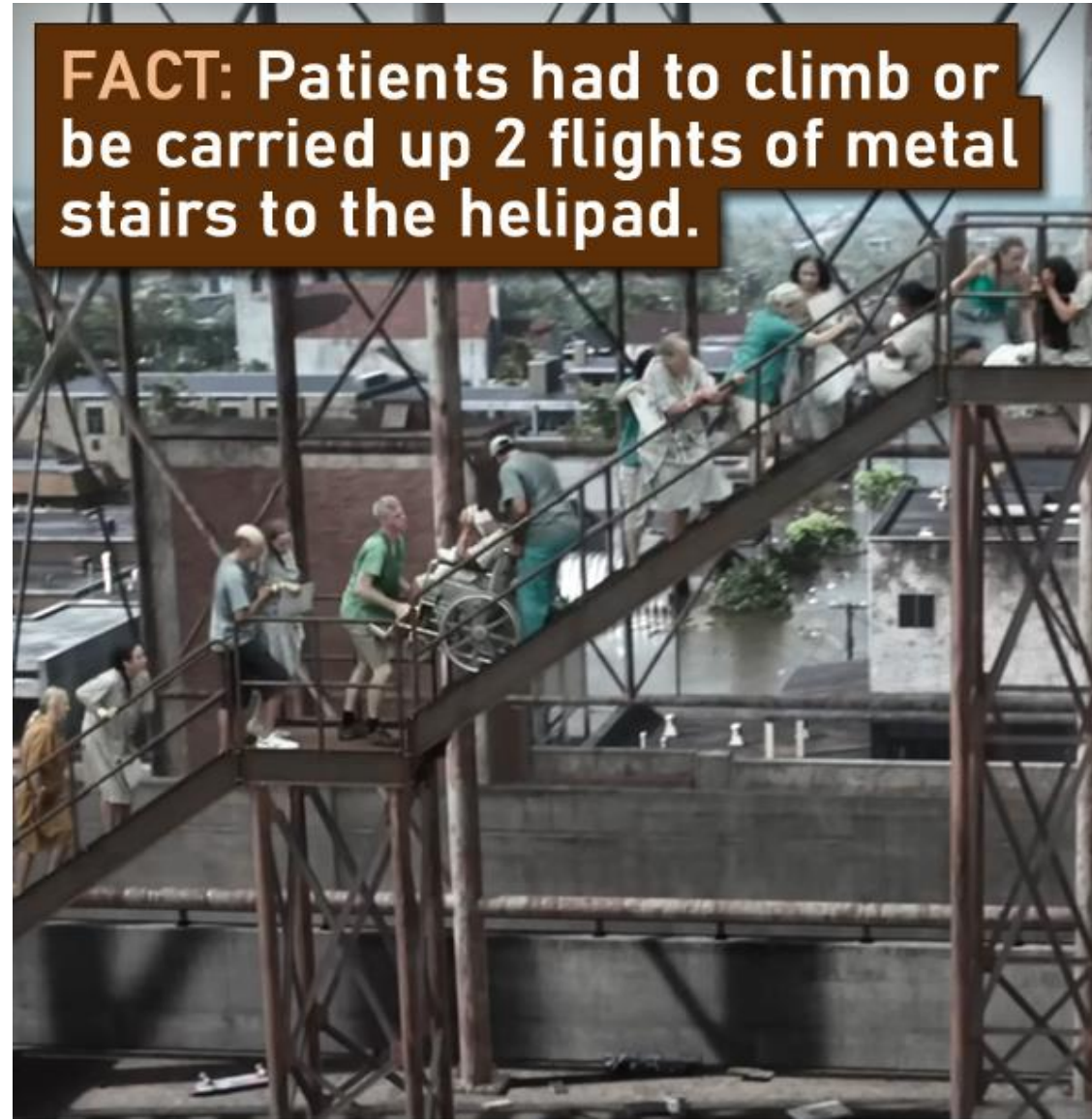
- And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.
- ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

II. Determination: The Friends

(Mark 2:4)

- 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.

Hurricane Katrina: *Five Days at Memorial*



II. Determination: Jesus first focuses on sin

(Mark 2:5)

- ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

An Old Testament Precedent: Forgiveness before Healing

- ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

--2 Chronicles 7:14

Forgiveness of Sin as a Form of Grace

- Definition: “Grace”

“undeserved blessing freely bestowed on humans by God”

--Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, 2nd ed.

Opposition: The Scribes' Argument

(Mark 2:6-7)

- 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?”
- The responsibilities of the Jewish leaders:
 - Interpret the scriptures
 - Uphold the Jewish traditions

Syllogisms

- A man cannot forgive sins

Jesus is a man

Therefore, Jesus cannot forgive sins

- Only God can forgive sins

Jesus can forgive sins

Therefore, Jesus is God

II. Determination: Cultural Context

(Mark 2:8-9)

- 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’?”

Jesus identifies himself as “Son of Man”

(Mark 2:10)

- ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”

Jesus appeals to Scripture: “Son of Man” in Daniel 7:13

The Son of Man Is Given Dominion

¹³ “I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.

Jesus = “Son of Man” = Messiah = God

- ¹⁰ But that you may know that **the Son of Man** has authority on earth to forgive sins”

Analysis:

- The Messiah is God’s chosen vehicle through whom the kingdom of God will be unfolded
- Jesus responds to the scribes by beginning with Scripture
- Jesus expands their understanding of “Messiah” (i.e. able to forgive sin)
- Supports Scriptural interpretation that only God can forgive sins
- Conclusion: the Messiah is God
- Jesus is the Messiah (“Son of Man”); thus Jesus is God

III. Decision: Jesus commands the paralytic

(Mark 2:11)

- he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

III. Decision: The Paralytic obeys

(Mark 2:12a)

- ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all,

III. Decision: The crowd praises God

(Mark 2:12b)

- so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

The Crowd:

- Amazed at what they witnessed
- Make a decision to give the glory to God
- Probably excited for future healings
- But how many in the crowd followed Jesus’ explanation that he is the Messiah-God?

Re-cap: Jesus's Authority and Power

- Jesus's authority → forgives sin
- Jesus's power → heals the afflicted

Both Then and Now

II. B. Jesus demonstrates his divinity (v. 5-10)

1. The underlying human condition: corrupted by sin
2. When Jesus forgives human sin, God's kingdom is opened
3. The paralytic enjoys both spiritual and physical blessings
(and so do we)

Psalm 23:4,6

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. . . .

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Let Us Pray

