

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## A Healing Faith In The Son of Man

(Michael Baker)

**W**hat do you do when you're in need of healing? Today we will go to a doctor who is able to properly address our infirmities. In Jesus' day they had physicians as well. However, during His ministry, folks would come to Jesus from all over that were in need of healing. Let's look in on a time when Jesus powerfully heals a man physically, but also spiritually.

One of the better known miracles of Jesus healing someone takes place in *Mark 2:1-12*. The scene is set in Capernaum, a place described as “*His own city*” in *Matt. 9:1*. As Jesus is inside a house preaching, we soon find the crowd was so thick that no one could come near the house to come inside. Despite the crowds, we see persistent faith shown by some men in order to reach Jesus. These men, one of which is paralyzed and being carried on a bed, overcome the obstacles in their way. The overflow of people makes it difficult for these men to reach the door of the house. They come through the roof to bring the palsied man before Jesus to be healed. The text says that Jesus “*saw their faith*” *Mark 2:5*. He saw faith's evidence by their great effort to bring this man to Him so he could be healed. But was Jesus

going to be able to heal the paralytic?

What stands out about this account of Jesus healing someone is that the healing didn't happen right away. In *Mark 5*, a woman with a bleeding issue touches Jesus' cloak to which He later says that “*your faith has made you well.*” He immediately healed her. But here Jesus says that the paralytic's sins are forgiven upon seeing their faith. Some of those people inside the house are the Scribes and Pharisees. These groups, who are in opposition to Jesus and His teachings, react in their mind, thinking that He is a blasphemer. They know and believe that only God can forgive sins, therefore this man must be a liar. So which is true, are the sins of the paralytic forgiven, or is Jesus a liar?

Jesus uses a miracle to establish His deity and power. He had the power to forgive sins on earth as the Son of Man. But how does using the title of “*Son of Man,*” which is speaking of His relationship to humanity, not detract from His deity? In *John 3:12-13* we see that the Son of Man descended out of Heaven. Could any man dwell in Heaven and descend to earth? No, but God could. He did so and then dwelt among man in the flesh as

Jesus Christ. But Jesus understands the Pharisee's mindset. It would be hard to prove that this man's sins are forgiven and that Jesus was really deity, because anyone can say “*Your sins are forgiven you*” *Mark 2:9*. Jesus commands the paralytic to arise and take up his bed, and he does so immediately. A miracle occurred to confirm that Jesus was deity, and He could forgive sins. Yes, the Pharisees were right, only God can forgive sins, but He does so in Heaven. Jesus His son forgives sins on earth.

Our advances in modern medicine could never rival the power of the Son of God who can simply command a paralytic man to arise. Notice how Jesus perceived the thoughts of some, while he saw the faith of others. Does He not have the ability to perceive faith? Even though Jesus can perceive our thoughts, saving faith must be expressed outwardly. Let us realize that as He sees our faith, we can have forgiveness for our sins and be healed spiritually. That healing is still offered today in the Gospel. We have record of this unusual miracle for the purpose of strengthening our faith so that it may be seen by others and by Jesus. Is your faith one that He is able to witness?