

Week of February 12-18

This week's devotional-writer is Mark Kiburz. Mark serves on our Board of Elders and is currently pursuing his ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God.

A DETERMINED FAITH

Scripture Reading: Read Mark chapter 2

Faith can be defined as confidence and trust. For believers, our confidence and trust must always be in the Lord. Through our faith in Christ, we can impact people around us in supernatural ways.

In today's reading, we see a miracle where Jesus heals a paralytic. Being a paralytic person in Jesus' time was a life of public humiliation, begging, disgrace and belittlement. People would often not associate themselves with paralytic people due to public stigmas. For the paralytic to have four friends is astounding. What is even more amazing was the perseverance and faith these men had on behalf of their friend. When they could not get the paralytic to Jesus through the front door because of the crowds, they climbed on the roof, ripped the roof open and lowered the paralytic man down on his mat in front of Jesus.

In response to their faith, Jesus told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven. Notice, it was in response to their faith not the faith of the paralytic. They believed that Jesus had the answer for their friend and Jesus responded by forgiving the sins of the paralytic and then healing him.

Sadly, the teachers of the law couldn't see what God was doing through Jesus. Instead, they accused him of blasphemy. Where the four friends could see Jesus for who he was, the healer, the teachers of the law could only see Jesus through their own understanding of who God should be. They were afraid of losing their earthly power and authority over the people. Throughout this chapter, they continued to reject truth and accept their own perceptions of Jesus as a blasphemer and rule-breaker.

Our faith, trust and confidence must not rely on our understanding of Jesus but rather on who the Heavenly Father declared Jesus to be: The Son of God with divine authority, the one who showed compassion for the hurting and diseased and the one who gave his life for our sins so that we can have eternal life.

Action Step: Obstacles to faith exist in every person's life. What are the lengths you are willing to go to overcome the obstacles of faith?

Prayer Focus: For the Lord in strengthen your faith and resolve to press in to Jesus

Take-a-way: A determined faith will find a way to Jesus when obstacles are in the way.