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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Paralytic

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MIRACLE EIGHT: Healing a Paralytic (Mt. 9:2-8; Mk. 2:3-12; Lk. 5:18-26)

SURVEY

Four friends of a paralytic, unable to approach Jesus because of a huge crowd, made an opening in the roof and lowered their companion at Jesus' feet. The Savior immediately both forgave the man of his sins and healed him of his affliction.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This miracle describes the most unique and innovative way of bringing a person to Jesus.
- It is the first miracle where Jesus forgives the sin of the person, thus announcing His deity, for God alone can forgive sin.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Both Paul and Jude may well have had the four friends of the paralytic in mind when they penned the following words:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:19-22)

"And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 22-23)

- An unknown author has written the following:

They will not seek, they must be sought,
They will not come, they must be brought,
They will not learn, they must be taught.

- J. Vernon McGee writes:

"There are many people who are not going to receive the message of salvation unless you lift a corner of their stretcher and carry them to the place where they can hear the word of the Lord. They are paralyzed—immobilized by sin and by many other things the world holds for them. Some are paralyzed by prejudice and others by indifference. They are never going to hear Jesus say to them, 'Son, thy sins be forgiven thee,' unless you take the corner of their stretcher and bring them to Him." (*Commentary on Luke*, Grand Rapids, MI, 1955, p. 74)