

MESSAGE

Occasion : Evening Service
Date : April 23, 2017

TITLE : WHEN HE SAW THEIR FAITH
Text/s :

Luke 5:17-26

- 17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.
- 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.
- 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.
- 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.
- 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?
- 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?
23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?
- 24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.
- 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.
- 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

Mark 2:1-12

- 1 And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.
- 2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.
- 3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.
- 4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.
- 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.
- 6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,
7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?
- 8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?
9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?
- 10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)
11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.
- 12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Bible reading :

2 Peter 1:3-8

- 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
- 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;
- 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
- 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

Song :

Introduction :

The scene was Capernaum, "own city of the Lord." By tradition, it was the house of Peter.

CAPERNAUM

(ka-per'-na-um) (Kapernaoum (Textus Receptus), Kapharnaoum (Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Bezae; etc.)): The woe spoken by the Master against this great city has been fulfilled to the uttermost <Mt 11:23; Lk 10:15>. So completely has it perished that the very site is a matter of dispute today. In Scripture Capernaum is not mentioned outside the Gospels. When Jesus finally departed from Nazareth, **He dwelt in Capernaum** <Mt 4:13> and made it the main center of His activity during a large part of His public ministry. Near by He called the fishermen to follow Him <Mt 1:16>, and the publican from the receipt of custom (<Mt 9:9>, etc.). It was the scene of many "mighty works" <Mt 11:23; Mk 1:34>. Here Jesus healed the centurion's son (<Mt 8:5>, etc.), the nobleman's son <Jn 4:46>, Simon Peter's mother-in-law (<Mk 1:31>, etc.), and the paralytic (<Mt 9:1>, etc.); cast out the unclean spirit (<Mk 1:23>, etc.); and here also, probably, He raised Jairus' daughter to life (<Mk 5:22>, etc.). In Capernaum the little child was used to teach the disciples humility, while in the synagogue Jesus delivered His ever-memorable discourse on the bread of life <Jn 6>.

The house was probably a poor one, in which the roof was made of mud and shingles. It would therefore be easy to tear up, dig a hole and secure entrance to the house. It was a scene filled with the resolution of faith. Where the heart is right, difficulties in the way of following the Savior will only call for more ingenuity and higher resolution.

Matthew (9:2-6), Mark (2:3-12) and Luke (5:17-26) narrate this story but only Luke makes mention that in the house were "...Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem..." That would be an area of about 150kms wide. Mark says, "...many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door..." So the house was full of different kinds of people, some to listen, some to question, some longing for a miracle, etc. The presence of Pharisees and doctors of law makes the atmosphere more suspense.

These were only waiting for Christ to stumble and make a mistake of the Scriptures. They would test him and tempt him by questions. And they were right up front sitting in the most comfortable place of the house. While Christ preaches to them, they were intently waiting for something that would give them a chance to publicly humiliate him.

But the message is not concerning these men. It is about the four faithful bearers.

Mark 2:3

3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

Look at their unity in respect to the needs of the palsied man. The palsied man represents all those that should be brought to Christ:

- **Souls diseased by sin**

Isa 1:5-6

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

- **Souls helpless in their state**

Rom 7:14-20

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

- 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.
18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.
20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

- **Souls who are at a distance from God**

Eph 2:13

- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Luke 5:20

20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

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Mark 2:5

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

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God looks for faith in men. Christ looked for faith in the disciples.

Gen 22:12

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

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John 2:23-25

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

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Luke 8:24-25

24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

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Matt 6:28-30

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

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Matt 8:26

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

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Matt 14:30-31

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

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John 11:40

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

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Rom 4:18-20

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

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1 Thess 1:3

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

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James 2:18-22

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

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What happens when He sees faith?

He gives victory

1 John 5:4

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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He is pleased

Heb 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

KJV

He gives understanding

Heb 11:3

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

KJV

He gives the promise

Heb 11:39

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

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He perfects

Heb 11:40

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

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A) They were one in their desire – to do things according to their faith

Heb 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- 1) They knew the Savior
 - a) They knew the work of the Saviour.
 - b) They knew the compassion of the Savior
 - c) They knew the ability of the Savior
- 2) They knew the man
They knew his need, whereabouts and what he needed more than anything else
- 3) They cooperated with each other in bring him to Christ

B) They were one against the obstacle – to stand for their faith

Their faith exceeded any obstacle. Difficulties are readily overcome where there is faith.

- 1) The curious was an obstacle
- 2) The questioning was an obstacle
- 3) The legalists were an obstacle

C) They were one in their perseverance – to contend for the faith

Faith turns obstacles into pedestals. "Love found a way..."

What they have done was a proof that the man and his friends were resolved to go to Jesus and obtain the cure; and all this trouble and thoughtfulness was the outcome of faith in Christ. Their boldness was the confidence of faith. Whenever there's a strong will, there is sure to be a way. They were not deterred from their purpose, nor were they kept back from him whose presence they sought.

D) They were one in allowing the Lord to have his way with the man – to make everyone grow in faith

They were not like the scribes. They simply allowed how the Lord would deal with the man; such as when he said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee..." they did not complain and say, "No, we've brought him so that you can heal him."

Rather we can believe that they counted what Christ did as reward. In the midst of the kindness of his friends, his sin is still there. It still is to be dealt with.

E) They were one in their reward/commendation of Christ – to be rewarded because of faith

The Lord saw their faith – the whole of them, He dealt with the man. Faith's result attend to both the spiritual and the physical.

Their act of faith even led to the realization of the scribes that indeed, if Christ would forgive sins, then he places himself to be God and indeed their declaration was true. Who can forgive sins but God.