

The Four Friends Extension Work and Personal Search

The paralysed man could do nothing for himself – just lay on his bed. Four friends carried him on his sleeping mat to Jesus' house, but the crowd was too big and they could not push their way through. They climbed the stairs up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered their friend, still on his mat, down into the crowd to the feet of Jesus.

Jesus was not angry about the hole in the roof – he could see how much the four friends cared for the paralysed man, and how sure they were that Jesus would be able to help.

Jesus said to the man – “Your sins (wrongdoings) are forgiven”

“Who does this man think he is” the religious leaders asked “Only God can forgive sins”. Jesus knew what they were thinking.

“I will prove I have authority on earth to forgive sins” he said. He turned to the paralysed man and said

“Stand up, take your mat, and go home, because you are healed!”

Immediately the man jumped to his feet, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe. They praised God, saying over and over again “We have seen amazing things today”.

The Bible Luke Chapter 5 verses 17-26

1. What was the matter with the man? Why did the four friends take him to Jesus?
2. What did they do to the roof? This is not normal behaviour – what made them do it? What would you have done?
3. What was Jesus' reaction to the hole in the roof? Why was he not angry? What does this tell you about Jesus' priorities in life? What do you think about these priorities?
4. What did Jesus say first to the man? Why did this offend the religious leaders?
5. What did Jesus say and do next? Jesus wanted to help the man and also prove something – what?
6. Why do Christians believe Jesus had the authority to forgive sins (wrongdoings)?
7. When Christians are ill today they will pray and ask for Jesus' help. How will reading this story encourage them when they do?
8. What was the response of the people when Jesus healed the man? What did they say and feel?
9. Sometimes today we experience feelings of awe and wonder – a beautiful day, a special place, a night sky. Describe a time when this happened to you.