

MAN HEALED OF PARALYSIS

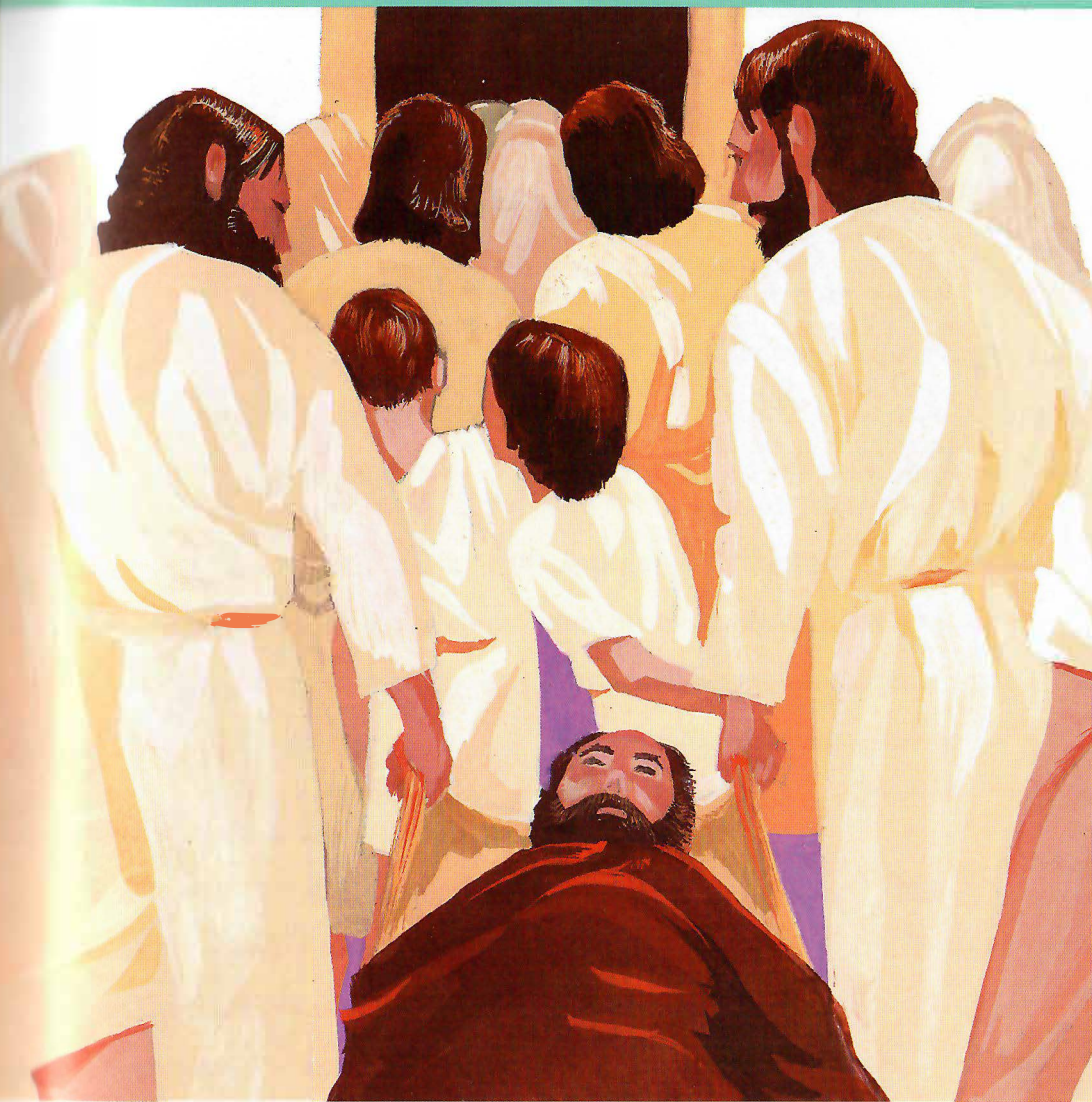
You can find other accounts of this healing in *Matthew 9:1-8* and *Luke 5:17-26*.

After healing many people in **Galilee**, including a leper, 🌀 Jesus traveled from town to town for a while, teaching and healing many others. When he returned to **Capernaum**, where he had healed a man who was mentally ill, 🌀 the news spread quickly that Jesus was back.

Many people squeezed inside the house where Jesus was staying so they could get near him. 🗨️ When there was no room for even one more person inside, people stood outside, crowded around the door.

To find more information on color-coded terms, see pages 261-282.


CONCEPTS CUSTOMS GLOSSARY PEOPLE PLACES





Jesus taught them the **word** of God—that God is all-powerful and loves and cares for everyone.


Just then, four men arrived who really wanted to see Jesus. They were carrying a friend on a **bed** because he was **paralyzed**.

They wanted Jesus to heal their friend, but they couldn't get close to the door because of the crowd.

 **SEE** “Man Healed of Leprosy,” p. 22. To read about lepers, see **Leprosy**, p. 270.

 **SEE** “Man Healed of Mental Illness (Capernaum),” p. 14.


 Luke adds that among the people who came to see Jesus were **Pharisees** and **scribes** from **Galilee**, **Judea**, and **Jerusalem** (see Luke 5:17). These men had probably heard about Jesus' healings, the huge crowds that were following him, and the **Sabbath laws** and **laws of cleanness** that he had broken. They may have come because they were curious about his teaching or to see for themselves if he was breaking Jewish laws.



Luke says the roof was made of clay tiles (see Luke 5:19).

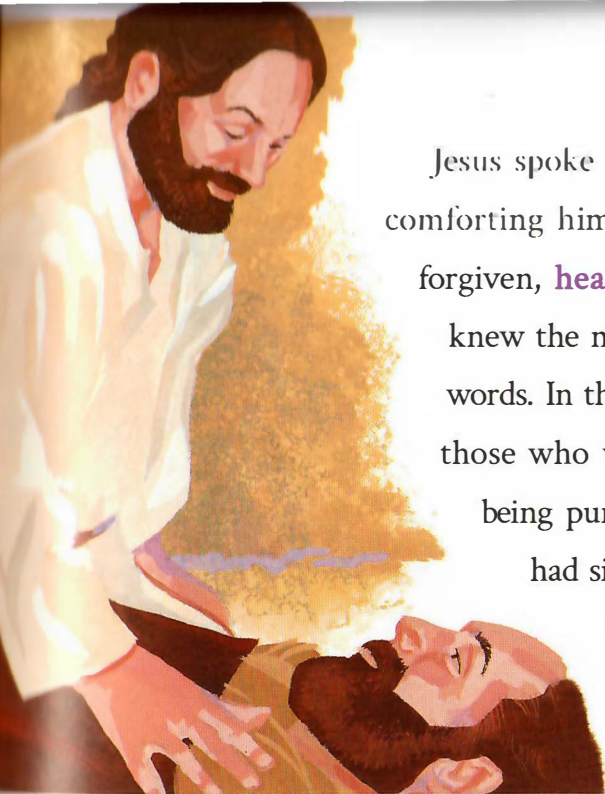
Did they give up and go back home?

No! These men must have loved their friend a lot because they never gave up. They were so sure Jesus could heal him that they found a way to get him to Jesus. They carried their friend on his bed up some outside stairs to the roof of the house.

Then they made a hole in the roof. This wasn't too hard to do because most roofs were flat and often made of layers of branches, grasses, and mud placed over wooden beams. 

Imagine the people inside the house who were listening to Jesus. They could hear the men on the roof, and soon dirt and sticks started falling down on them. They must have wondered what was going on!

When the hole in the roof was big enough, the men slowly lowered their friend on his bed until he was lying right in front of Jesus! Jesus could see that these men had **faith** in God to heal their friend.



Jesus spoke lovingly to the man, comforting him. He said, “Son, you are forgiven, **healed of your sins.**” Jesus knew the man needed to hear these words. In those days, people believed that those who were sick or paralyzed were being punished by God because they had sinned, meaning they had done bad things. This man might have been thinking of himself as a sinner.

But Jesus knew this man as God knew him—as God’s perfect, spiritual child. He couldn’t be bad or paralyzed. Jesus’ words helped the man feel God’s love. And that love healed him of the thought that he was a bad person. It freed his thought, and it also freed his body.

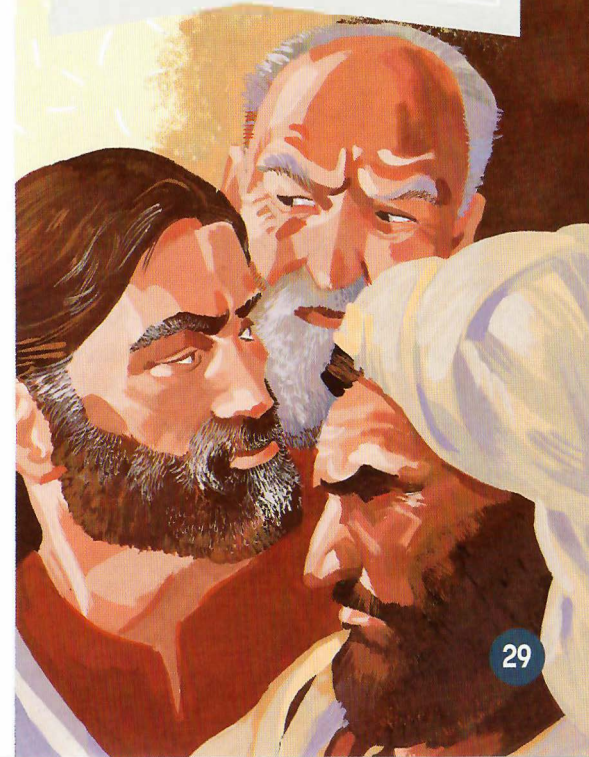
Hearing that he wasn’t a sinner must have made the man so happy! That message probably blessed a lot of people in the crowd, too.

But not everyone liked those words. Some **scribes** who were there got angry. They heard Jesus’ words of comfort and thought to themselves, “How dare Jesus talk that way! He’s acting like God by forgiving the man’s sins. Only God can forgive sins.”

Matthew tells us that Jesus also said to “be of good cheer” (Matthew 9:2).

Luke tells us that both scribes and Pharisees were present (see Luke 5:21).

The scribes and Pharisees thought Jesus’ words were **blasphemy**. They thought he was dishonoring God by saying he was as powerful as God.





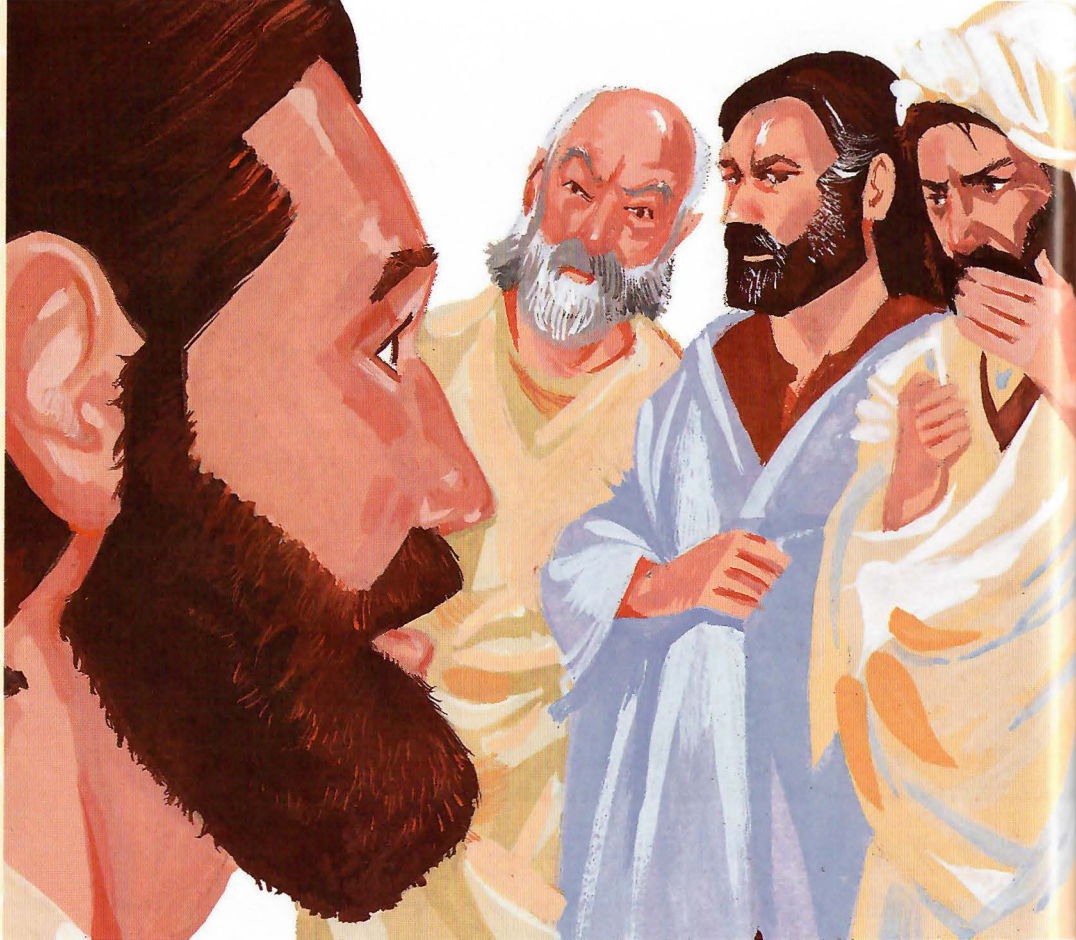
I JOHN 3:9

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

Jesus knew that we are all created without sin, in the image and likeness of God, who is Spirit. By seeing everyone as completely good and never punished by God, Jesus healed the sick. We can do this too! Seeing ourselves as God sees us heals both sin and sickness.

What can YOU do?

Sometimes when you need help, it might seem impossible to get it. But you can always get help. When you ask God for an answer and then listen, an idea will come—just as it did for these four men. They found a very unusual way to help their friend! You’re God’s child, and God loves and guides you.



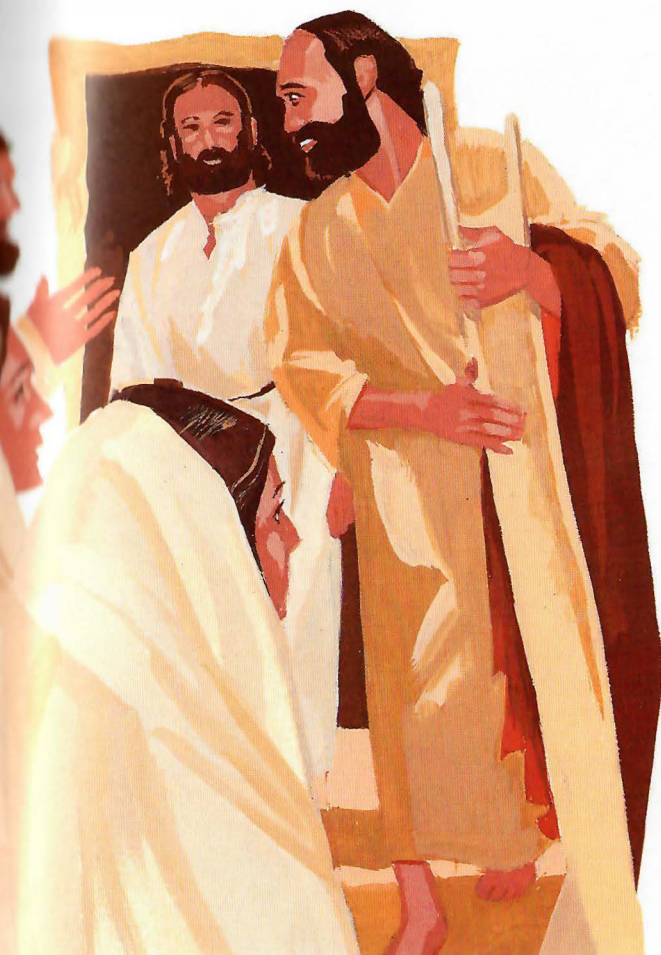
Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he turned to the scribes and said, “Why are you thinking such things? Which is easier to say to this man—‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Get up, pick up your bed, and walk?’”

It would have been easier for Jesus if he hadn’t told the man that his sins were forgiven. Jesus wouldn’t have gotten into trouble with the scribes if he had simply told the man to stand up, pick up his bed, and walk. But instead of doing what was easy, Jesus said what the man most needed to hear.



Then Jesus told the scribes, "I will show you that the **Son of man** has power to heal people of sins." Jesus often called himself the "Son of man."

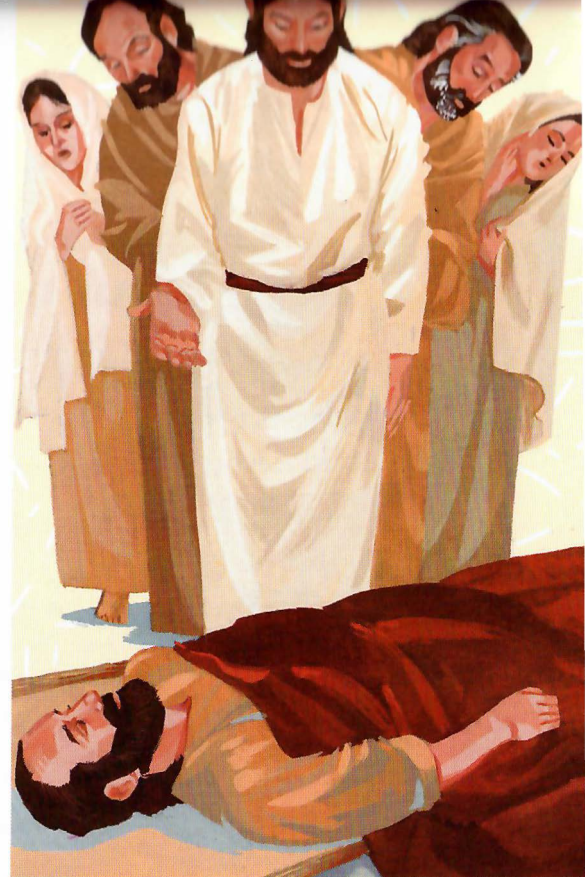
He then turned and looked at the man on the bed. Everyone watched to see what he would do.

Jesus said to the man, "Get up, pick up your bed, and go home." Instantly, the man did it! He stood up, picked up his bed, and walked out through the crowd.



When everyone saw the man walking, they knew the man's sins must have been forgiven, just as Jesus had said.

The crowd was amazed—God's power had healed the man. They praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this! Thank you, God!"  



Matthew adds that the crowd glorified, or praised, God because God "had given such power unto men" (Matthew 9:8).