

Friends Bring a Sick Man to Jesus

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Scene Summary

Friends bring a sick man to Jesus presents the heart-warming story of friends who work hard to be helpful. Scenes include: people who want to see Jesus...a sick man who wants to be healed...his friends carry him to Jesus...a full house...friends carry the man to the roof...they remove the tiles...and let him down into the room where Jesus is...Jesus forgives his sins...and heals his sickness...the people praise God.

Scripture

(Mark 2:1-12 NIV) A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. {2} So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. {3} Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. {4} Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. {5} When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." {6} Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, {7} "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" {8} Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? {9} Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? {10} But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He said to the paralytic, {11} "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." {12} He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.

- **Jesus** – God’s One and Only Son.
- **Person 1, 2** – Small, but important role, they are excited to have Jesus come to their town.
- **Pharisee** – A temple leader that were very skeptical of Jesus.
- **Friends 1, 2, 3, 4** – These people are excited about taking their friend to Jesus.
- **Sick person** – A person that is hurting and cannot walk.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.

Script -Friends Bring a Sick Man to Jesus

[Opening scene is of Jesus walking into the house]

Narrator: Jesus walked along the road to Capernaum. He paused and looked at the lake below. Then pulling His coat tighter, to keep out the winter cold, He walked toward the town. As He entered the town and walked through the narrow streets, friends greeted Him.

Person 1: [happy] We are glad to see you!

Narrator: Some hurried to tell their friends.

Person 1: [speaking to person 2] Jesus has come!

Person 2: [speaking to person 3] Jesus is back in town!

Narrator: Jesus walked on to the house where He was invited to stay. Soon the little streets were crowded with people, wanting to see and hear Jesus. Mothers carrying babies, fishermen, merchants and leaders, all were going to see Jesus. It didn't take long for the whole house where Jesus was staying to be filled with people. People even waited at the door, hoping people inside would leave soon so that they could have their turn to talk and listen to Jesus.

Narrator: [changing focus] In another place in town there was a sick man who had heard the noise of the crowd as they rushed about.

Sick man: [to himself] Where are they going? Perhaps something important is happening. [moaning] I miss everything. I wish I could walk again.

Narrator: He remembered when there was a time before when he could walk and go to work and meet friends. Suddenly the door opened and some friends rushed in.

Friend 1: [excited] Jesus is back in town!

Friend 2: [also excited] He is healing many people! Perhaps He will heal you!

Sick man: [looking sad] But how can I go?

Friend 3: [with strength] We will carry you.

[The friends help carry the sick man]

Narrator: The friends walked carefully as they carried the man through the narrow streets. They were excited. The sick man felt better just being out side again.

Sick man: [smiling and to himself] Perhaps soon, I shall walk again.

Friend 4: [with despair and pointing ahead] Look at that crowd of people around the house where Jesus is. We will never get in.

Friend 1: [changing expressions sad to happy] I have an idea! Help me up to the roof.

Narrator: Slowly the friends carried the sick man up to the roof. They laid him carefully down, and then they began to remove roof tiles. Soon, they could look down, into the room below. With ropes, they carefully let the man down, right in front of Jesus. Jesus smiled. He was pleased that the friends had believed in Him.

Jesus: [speaking to the sick man] Son, your sins are forgiven.

Sick man: [smiling and to himself] Forgiven for all the wrong things I have done; it is wonderful.

Pharisee: [speaking to the person next to him] Why did Jesus say such a thing. Only God can forgive sins.

Jesus: [to the Pharisee] Why are you wondering about this. Is it easier to say “rise up and walk” or to say “your sins are forgiven”? I do want you to know that I have power to forgive sins. [then turning to the sick man] Stand up, pick up your bed and carry it home.

Sick man: [getting up with excitement] My legs are strong again! I can walk!

Narrator: The people said “we have never seen anything like this before! And they thanked God.

The End

Supplemental information

Jesus was very busy doing the work God had sent Him to do. He taught His disciples, he talked to the people and their leaders. He healed many who were sick. One day He decided to go back to the city of Capernaum. He came to this city often. Peter and his family had their home here and Jesus had many friends in the city. Capernaum was situated on the Sea of Galilee on the northwest shore. It was just a ten-hour walk from Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. Walking from the north, a traveler would walk along a long and flat plateau until nearly to the sea, and then you could see the black basalt cliffs and the sparkling blue water of the sea and the copper color shore below. The road leads down toward the sea and into the town. You can still walk this road today.

Capernaum was a Jewish city. The people made their living by farming, fishing and selling. Walking down the hill toward the city, you would notice a change in temperature. It would be hotter in the summer. The fisherman would throw fish scales on the ground. There would be a strong odor of fish in the city, but there were pleasant smells as well: oranges and roses.

Capernaum streets were narrow. The houses were made from the dark basalt rocks cut from the nearby cliffs. One bright feature of the town was the synagogue, made of gleaming white limestone. The city was a good size for its day. Caravans passed through bring news from many far away places. Some tax collectors had their offices in Capernaum and it is likely that the Romans had a military post there as well.

Jesus often visited Capernaum. He did some His mightiest works there. Whenever He came to town, word spread quickly and a crowd gathered. Many people wanted to talk with Him. Others brought friends or relatives to be made well. There were many diseases in Bible days, but very few doctors. There were few medicines and no hospitals. Many people died from diseases that modern medicine can now easily cure. It is no wonder that many people came to Jesus to be healed.

On this visit, a crowd gathered quickly at the house where Jesus was staying. A group of scribes and teachers of the law came to see Jesus too. They asked many questions and thoughtfully considered His answers. The house was crowded and many people waited outside to get in.

While Jesus talked to scribes and lawyers, the four friends let the sick man down through the roof. The flat roof houses of Palestine were not durably constructed as our houses are. Poor people often only had mud walls that washed away in a heavy rain. Many of the houses in Capernaum were made of the dark basalt that was very hard and durable. The roofs, according to scholars, were not very thick. Perhaps, rough rafters stretched across the top of a house with branches laid across these. Then the whole roof would be plastered with mud. After a rain, the owner had to roll the mud on his roof to smooth it out again. Even today, there are roofs made in this manor and the stoneroller is the same type that was used in New Testament days. Outside

stairways lead to the roof. People sometimes did their work on the roof, like drying grain and cleaning. Sometimes families took their sleeping mats up to the roof so that they might enjoy any breeze on a hot summer night. Most people in Palestine slept on mats on the floor, only the rich people had beds, and even those were not like the beds we have today. There were wooden frames, something like a low bench with slats or woven cloth tacked across the frame. On these were placed the sleeping mats. It would have been easy for the sick man, when he was healed, to carry his bed back home again.

Extra time

Let children draw a house in Palestine, or a picture of the four friends carrying the sick man, or the view that Jesus saw from the plateau as He looked down on the town, the sea and the shore.