

Mark 2

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Thoughts from Deacon Adam

The second chapter of St Mark's Gospel leads us into a crowded house, full of people desperate to get close to the Master. Suddenly a sound of a hole being dug into the roof interrupts the teaching and we watch as sunlight pours down into the house. Four desperate men lower their paralyzed friend down by ropes, and he lands at Jesus' feet.



This is a good place to be, at the feet of Jesus, with no back-up plan. As always, we see God's will for us displayed in Jesus' actions toward us. Jesus never tells anyone that it is God's will for them to not receive healing. However, sometimes we aren't ready and able to receive what God wants to give.

When we are focused on the power of the disease more than the power of God to heal, that creates doubt. Unbelief grows in the distance between us and God, further distorting our ability to hear what He wants to say us. Faith takes hold of what Grace is trying to give.

Another distraction from faith is guilt and condemnation. This is why Jesus so often forgives sins before telling someone to use faith to take hold of their healing. He knows that the more focused we are on our sin, the less likely we are to receive good things from our heavenly Father.

The grace of God is unmerited favor, unearned generosity. When we see God in all His grace, He sees us in all our faith. It's not for us to see our faith; it's for us to see God's grace. And the more of God's grace we see, the more miracles begin to happen.

Miracles come by faith. Faith comes by hearing. Hearing comes by intimacy.