



Daily Reflections

January 18, 2019

Scripture

Mark 2: 1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it became known that he was at home.

Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them,
not even around the door,
and he preached the word to them.

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd,
they opened up the roof above him.

After they had broken through,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him,
"Child, your sins are forgiven."

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves,
"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming.

Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Jesus immediately knew in his mind what
they were thinking to themselves,

so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts?

Which is easier, to say to the paralytic,

'Your sins are forgiven,'

or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'?

But that you may know

that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth"
–he said to the paralytic,
"I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."
He rose, picked up his mat at once,
and went away in the sight of everyone.
They were all astounded
and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Our Scripture Reflection

What a loving picture that is painted by today's Gospel reading. Four men with huge, compassionate hearts go out of their way to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Jesus is moved by their effort and heals the man immediately. This reading offers us a wonderful way to focus on loving others. Perhaps you can't physically carry a crippled or sickly friend to Jesus but you can do so spiritually. Carry them in your daily pray. And, write them a note to let them know you are doing so. Watch a miracle happen.

Food for your Journey

In his memoirs about surviving the World War II concentration camps, Eli Wiesel claims that he and his father motivated each other to survive. Wiesel needed to stay alive to take care of his elderly father. That became his motivation for surviving the concentration camps. He knew that if he died, his father would give up hope and die also.

Wiesel wrote, "The Germans tried to get the inmates to think only of themselves, to forget relatives and friends, to tend only to their own needs. But what happened was just the reverse. Those who retreated to a universe limited to their own bodies had less chance of getting out alive, while to live for a brother, a friend, an ideal, helped you hold out longer."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, There are so many people who are lonely and hurting due to illness, divorce, unemployment or grief. While I cannot carry all of them to You, help me to do so spiritually. May I carry them in my daily prayers and each time I go to Your altar at Church. Amen