

Seventh Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

Friends/Scribes/Paralytic/JC

Friends

They arrive and JC is in the house & its packed!
No telling how long they walked carrying this man and now this.
They try to edge their way in and the crowd rebuffs them
They go to the windows, nothing – then they notice the thatched roof IDEA
They climb up and the crowd ridicules them – QUIT GIVE UP.
They start ripping open the roof (*whose house was this?*)

Scribes

Inside the house with the crowd – (they had seats up front)
Now the roof starts opening up, straw starts falling on everyone
People start to scatter and make room – even them
Jesus stops teaching and the stretcher descends
Everyone looks to JC – JC looks up at the friends, then down at paralytic
Scribes watch to see what JC will do
Such Faith! JC looks and sees their want & their need
Your sins are forgiven WHAT! Blasphemy!
- **No OT Prophet ever forgave sins** Moses Jeremiah Ezekiel Isaiah - nobody
Sole Domain of God

Jesus STARTS with forgiveness not healing

WHEN WE PRAY – God meets our needs not our wants

Jesus

He had given crowd what it needed – Teaching
He had given the paralytic what he needed – Forgiveness
Now he turns to the Scribes Scribes are ticked “Who do you think you are?”
JC – Let me show you “That **you** may know the Son of Man ...” HEALING

Let me explain something:

- **Gospel says “When Jesus saw their faith” – not HIS faith” --- Who is he talking about?**

The faith of the friends ----- Their faith, resulted in his healing

Here is a little pearl of truth

YOUR FAITH CAN AFFECT THE LIFE OF OTHERS

Too often we think our faith is something just between us and God.

It’s MY relationship with God – faith is personal – its mine.

True, but Faith is nurtured by example and support of others.

Pepere’s Cellar → example I needed to see

YOUR FAITH CAN AFFECT OTHERS

Power of Intercessory Prayer

Friends Family Those we work with
Those we work for (ever pray for your boss?) (your employees?)
People on our street Spouses Parents for their children

In Isaiah, God says “I am going to do something new” GOD CAN SURPRISE US

In Gospel – Jesus does it – paralytic walks, last few week – leper cleansed – Peter’s mom

I saw what I needed in Pepere – it was something new! **YOU CAN DO THE SAME**

Story of the monk who meets a childless couple

They ask him to pray for a child

The monk prays and God says “It’s not in their destiny that they have a child”

5 years later the monk visits the same village and they have 3 sons.

They explain that a saint passed by, and had prayed for them

The monk prays and asks God why – and God says “That must be the doing of a saint, Saints have the power to change destiny”

WE’RE SITTING IN A ROOMFUL OF SAINTS