

Sunday, August 19, 2012
by Eva Clarke

Friends, Faith and Forgiveness

Matthew 9:1-8

New International Version (NIV)

1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **2** Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."**3** At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"**4** Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? **5** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **6** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." **7** Then the man got up and went home. **8** When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

Mark 2:3-7

New International Version (NIV)

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, 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 by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "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?"

Luke 5:18-21

New International Version (NIV)

18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. **19** When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20** When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." **21** The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

John 9:1-3

New International Version (NIV)

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"**3** "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Daniel 7:13-14

New International Version (NIV)

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, [a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Proverbs 17:17

New International Version (NIV)

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 27:6

New International Version (NIV)

6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:10

New International Version (NIV)

10 Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative’s house when disaster strikes you—better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.

Discussion Questions:

- * What might life have been like for the paralyzed man?
- * What did Jesus have to offer him?
- * What did Jesus prioritize, spiritual healing or physical healing? How might the spiritual healing and physical healing have been related?
- * What might life have been like for his friends? How could they help the paralyzed man?
- * What are the some of the characteristics of godly friends? What kind of impact can having or being a godly friend have in your life? Are you cultivating godly friendships?