



Heartbeats along the way: The Questioning Heart

Psalm 28:7. At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?"

Four friends had just lowered a paralyzed man through a hole in a roof because they believed Jesus could heal their friend. On seeing this act of faith, Jesus told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven. In the middle of all this, some lawyers sat around silently questioning if Jesus had committed blasphemy. Before he healed the man, Jesus turned to these legal experts and asked a question of his own: "Why do you raise such questions in your heart." He puts another question to them: "Which is easier? To forgive his sins or to cure him?"

Jesus then proves His authority over both the spiritual and the physical realms by commanding the paralytic to stand, roll up his bed, and to home.

Most times we concentrate on Jesus dressing down the lawyers. But I want you to think about the sick man and his four friends. Imagine the challenges to their faith: their friend's illness; big crowds; climbing to the roof with a stretcher; figuring out how to open a hole big enough to lower their friend; finding ropes to make that possible; and trusting that Jesus would do something for the sick man.

On our journey to the Spring Garden Campus, our church family has faced many questions, and has experienced challenges to our individual and collective faith. Even facing daunting odds we chose not to be cheese-paring, questioning legalists, but faithful and committed friends.

"O Great Physician of body and soul, help our faith to overcome any questions that linger within us about Your absolute power to make all things happen for our good. Let us never, ever, ever surrender to doubting Your love for us. Amen."~ cl reynolds

Mark 2:1-12. When he (Jesus) returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?"

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"