

As we share this period of "Lent Time" we pray you discover a new awareness of God's Word and God's love and presence in your lives through these reflections.



Searching for Insights in the Gospel of Mark

1. Who are the friends who brought me to Jesus through their faithful example or encouragement?

2. How might I be a more faithful friend to others and bring them to the compassionate, healing presence of Jesus?

3. Why didn't Jesus just heal the paralytic's disability as everyone was expecting?

We pray... Healing Lord, you know the deepest needs of my heart and you desire my healing body and soul. Give me the ability to trust you and to experience your power to forgive my sins and bring me to wholeness in my life. Amen



Our Lady of the Fields Church
Scriptural Review & Reflections
Saturday & Sunday March 10 & 11, 2018

For more information on any of the parish Faith Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization and Faith Formation Office & Staff or Dr. Little at tlittle@olffparish.com

The Gospel of Jesus: God's Suffering Servant Mark 2 :1-12

Even though Jesus is not able to openly enter a town because of his growing celebrity. He does not remain hidden. People discover he is "at home" in Capernaum and word of his return spreads quickly, as a large crowd gathers in the house and outside the door. Jesus takes the opportunity to preach "the word" to them, the good news of God's kingdom and its demand for repentance and belief. With the crowd a paralyzed man cannot come to Jesus himself so he is carried by friends who avoid the crowd and take their friend up to the roof.

A typical Galilean home had an outside stairway leading to the roof, normally made of wood beams covered with mud /straw. The group dug out one of the panels and lowered the man down to Jesus' feet.

Jesus reacts with affirmation to this implicit request for healing because, "Jesus saw faith" [Not only of the friends but the paralytic's faith too] and forgave his sin. That is not what the men or his friends were expecting to hear. Jesus however knows that forgiveness is this man's greatest need. Sin is an illness more dangerous than physical sickness. For the illness of guilt keeps us from coming to God. For this man, forgiveness is a precondition for healing. Still the crowd is anxious.

And in response to their suspicions, Jesus asks, "What is easier to say, I forgive your sins?" or to say "Stand up, take your mat and walk?" Words of healing require immediate demonstration. So, to prove to them that he had authority to absolve sins, Jesus does what is "harder" as a sign of his authority to do what seems "easier." And the sick man returns home to begin a life demonstrating that "the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sin and sickness." And we gasp!