



2010 Lenten Meditations

Written by Parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral / Compiled by The Daughters of the Holy Cross

Masthead courtesy of Susan Craig

Thursday February 25 Mark 2:1-12

Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Jesus forgives and then heals a paralytic in a crowded house before Jewish religious authorities (scribes) who accuse Him of blasphemy. There are many elements in this story.

First, the friends of the paralytic showed great faith that Jesus could help the man. They had to use imagination and skill to get the paralytic in front of Jesus in an overcrowded house by lowering the ill man through a hole in a roof. The lesson seems to be that we should never give up trying to help others. Trinity's Outreach ministries need volunteers. Find out how you might help this Lenten season. Jesus saw the faith of the friends. Do people see our faith? St Francis of Assisi said "preach the Gospel always, when necessary use words."

Jesus did not, as one might expect, immediately pronounce the paralytic healed. Instead, he said "Son, your sins are forgiven." That's when scribes accused Him of blasphemy by declaring that God alone can forgive sins. Jesus' answer was "so that you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He told the paralytic to stand up and go home.

The paralytic was crippled spiritually and physically. Jesus, as the Son of Man using God's authority, love, and grace healed spirit and body. He did so for people to witness sending the message that He can bring the loving forgiveness of God to all mankind. Do we know the healing power of forgiveness? Are we willing to take our burdens to Jesus? The message for me is, if we will, our Lord God is ever ready to bring us healing of body, soul and mind.

Lee Ruef

Lee and Mary have been members of Trinity since 1994. He is semi-retired, continuing to consult on state government relations. Lee has just completed a Vestry term, is a Lector and Intercessor and is coordinator of the Trinity Cathedral/W.A. Perry Middle School Partnership. Mary works in the Trinity kitchen on Wednesdays and for special occasions and on various aspects of the Annual Bazaar.