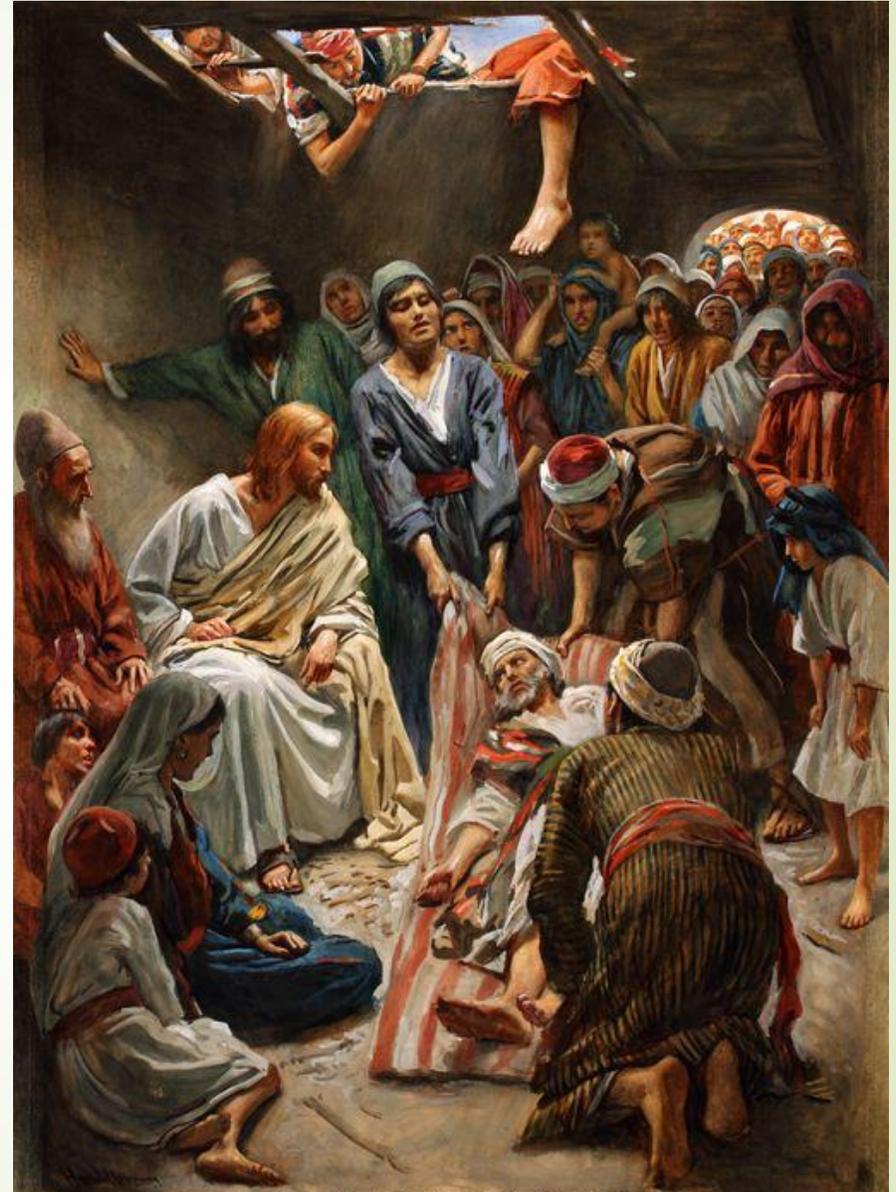


“Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.” – Mark 2:3



Jesus Heals The Paralytic by Harold Copping



Introduction

- The cities in which the Lord Christ dwelt
 - Bethlehem (house of bread)
 - “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.” (Jn. 6:49-50)
 - Nazareth (separated one)
 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Pet. 2:9)
 - Capernaum (village of comfort)
- The paralytic’s friends display the power of Christian friendship



The Power of Christian Friendship



1. Desires healing

- “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?” (Jam. 2:15-16)
- “**A faithful friend is a medicine of life**, And those who fear the Lord will find him. 17 He who fears the Lord guides his friendship rightly, Because as he is, so also is his neighbor.” (Sir. 6:16-17)

2. Believed the Lord Christ is the healer

- A true friend will direct his friends to the Lord Christ
- “As for us, too, O Lord, the sickness of our souls, heal; and also *those of our bodies, cure. O You, the true Physician of our souls and bodies, the Bishop of all flesh, visit us with Your salvation.*” (St. Basil Liturgy)



3. Persistent

- Despite obstacles
- Ex: Canaanite Woman
 - “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”
(Matt. 15:27)
- The persistent do not make excuses



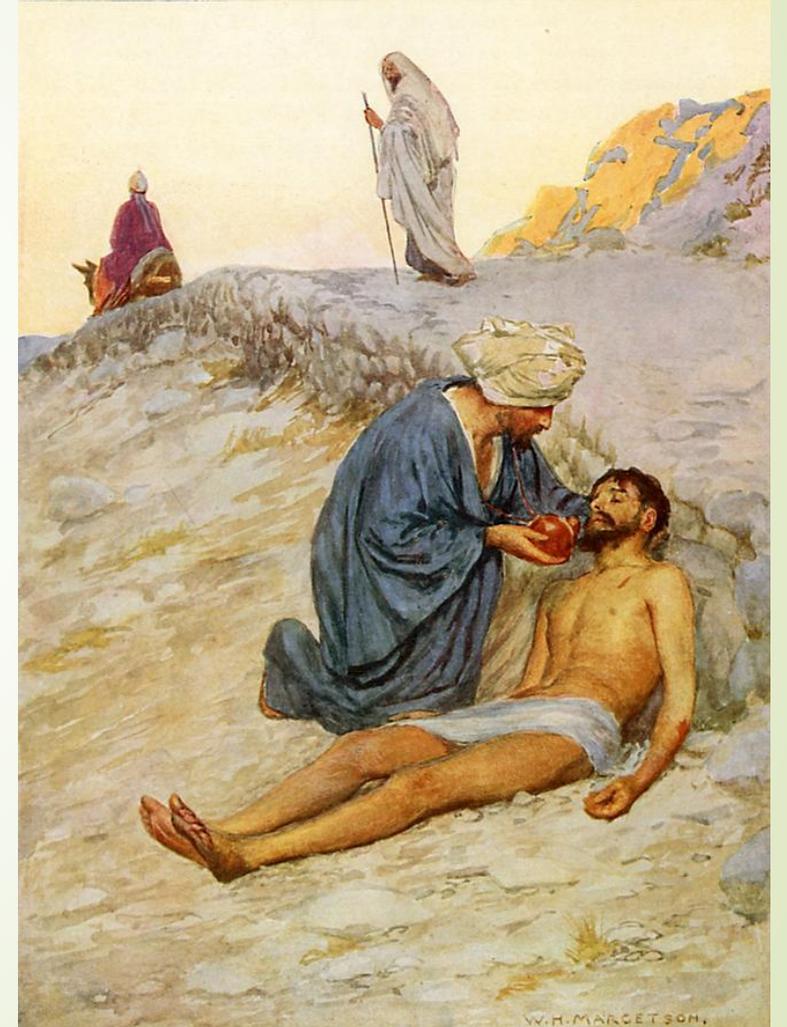
4. Faithful

- ▶ To the will of God
 - ▶ Ex: Wedding at Cana of Galilee
- ▶ To their friend (the paralytic)
- ▶ “But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” (Lk. 14:13-14)



5. Sacrificed the front seat

- His friends gave up their possible front seat
- Ex: The Good Samaritan





Summary



The True Christian Friend

1. Desires healing
 2. Believes the Lord Christ can help his friends
 3. Is persistent
 4. Is Faithful
 5. Willing to sacrifice
- 
- ## These types of friends will change lives