

Anderson County Crusades --- Day 2

Evangelist -- Ken Freeman

May 6, 2002

Monday, 7 pm

Jesus did not have a PA system, crowd control, logistical support, etc. And yet He talked to thousands of people at a time. He had to speak over the waves lapping against the shore, the wind blowing.

- 1. Faith always does the unexpected.**
- 2. Faith always gets God's attention.**
- 3. Faith can't believe what circumstances tell you.**

Your faith affects someone else's destiny. Not maybe, not potentially. Your faith does matter. Other people are watching you to see how you react.

You put your faith into so many things and people every day. You trust: teachers, banks, chairs, doctors, cars, etc. And you also trust: people who make cars, people who fix cars, people who make airplanes, etc.

You trust the doctor who actually has a vested interest in you being sick. He writes a prescription that nobody can read. You take it to the pharmacist who gives you a bunch of unrecognizable pills. He also gives you a list of potential side effects. But you don't care; you trust the doctor that you talked with for two minutes.

You don't interview the airline pilot when you get on the airplane. What if he's having a bad day? You'd prefer to know that he's happily married, financially secure, wife not cheating on him, etc.

Wouldn't it be nice if stupid people wore stupid signs? TV stations always interview the stupidest people in your community.

Luke 5:17- 25

(v20) A man was saved due to somebody else's faith. The four dudes didn't beg Jesus, didn't make any loud professions. The paralyzed guy doesn't seem to have a choice in the matter. His friends carry him and also do all of the planning (v18, v19). And it is a lot of work.

Imagine the scene. Jesus is teaching and healing. And a big pallet comes straight down, with a guy who is slumped over and drooling. Then Jesus looks up, and there are four faces looking down through the roof.

(v20) Jesus sees faith?! What does faith look like? We can only see evidences and indications of faith.

Spiritual healing lasts for an eternity. Physical healing is only temporary. Therefore, the greater thing is to forgive the paralyzed man of his sins. Jesus told him to pick up the pallet and walk.

You may think you are different than the paralytic because you can walk. Hard to relate to this story. But you are paralyzed with: fear, religion, hate, attitudes, lies, indecision, peer pressure, greed, comfortableness, etc. You have been paralyzed all of your life. You can't walk to God; you have to be carried into His presence.

How many churches could have accomplished what the four friends did? No hesitation, no committees, no talk. Overcoming obstacles, not counting the cost of roof repairs, and making a way to Jesus. Singleminded purpose.

The paralytic's friends, through faith, did the unexpected.

The paralytic's friends, through faith, got God's attention.

The paralytic's friends, through faith, did not believe what circumstances were telling them.