



# ST. PATRICK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

4797 Curtis Blvd Port St John FL 32927

Trinity 19  
October 26, 2025

**✠ In The Name of The Father and of The Son  
and of The Holy Ghost. Amen. ✠**

The passage taken for the sermon this morning is from the Gospel,

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus, seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. St Matthew 9:2-3

I want to draw your attention to the way Jesus greets the man with palsy. This man comes to Jesus broken in body and spirit. He is a sinner, and known to be a sinner of sufficient reputation, that when Jesus says, "Be of good cheer, thy sins are forgiven you", no one mistakes the absolution for polite conversation. Instead, the Pharisees are indignant that Jesus, whom they believe is just a man, can presume to do what is reserved for God, the forgiveness of sins.

Why does Jesus forgive the man? It doesn't say he begged forgiveness as other sinners had done. He is forgiven because of the faith of his friends who carried him to Jesus. They believed that Jesus had the power to restore their friend. Jesus, always knowing what is better for us than we know for ourselves, restored the palsied man in the way that was most important. He restored him to grace. He separated him from the

withering death of his sinfulness. He made him whole in spirit and for forever. And then, Jesus restored his physical health.

The Scribes should have recognized Jesus and the authority He would have to forgive sins. Rather than rejoice for the miraculous healing done for their palsied brother, they took the opportunity to accuse Jesus of blasphemy.

Blasphemy is taking something that is holy and Godly and then using it for evil and unholy purpose. Blasphemy was punishable by death. That is why the Scribes and Pharisees so often sought to convict Jesus of healing on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was holy, doing anything other than praising God or resting on the Sabbath was blasphemy. Jesus could justify healing as praising God. Presuming to forgive sins as God was a level of blasphemy the Scribes felt would give them the opportunity to condemn Jesus to death

To prove that He had the power to forgive sins, Jesus performs the healing, which demonstrates that He is, in fact, the Messiah. The Scribes are embarrassed and their hope to convict Jesus are thwarted. The people who witnessed the miracle praise God for His mercy.

The behavior of the scribes seems even worse when we consider that Jesus was in His home town. They knew Him. They had seen Him grow up. His ministry started there, and yet, these men were determined to criticize Jesus, even condemn Him, rather than rejoice in the opportunity to have their neighbor restored from His sins and healed of his infirmity. Their jealousy and lack of faith was meant to inhibit the ministry Jesus was determined to share.

I want us to consider how we also tend to judge those people that are familiar to us whenever they step up into a ministry. Do we doubt them, underestimate them, criticize them, maybe even gossip about them. Can we do a better job of supporting our friends and family when they step up to do the right thing?

In contrast, we have the friends of the palsied man. Most of the miracles Jesus performed were the consequence of someone reaching out to Him for mercy and healing. He responds by granting the request, often giving a lesson to the Apostles and disciples about charity and kindness as He does so. In this case, there is no record of the palsied man asking for healing, either of his infirmity or his sins. And yet, Jesus grants him both. Why did He do it? We could assume that Jesus was gracious to the man so He confound the Scribes and their trap, but I think that would be wrong. He does use the healing for that purpose, but it is not why He forgave the man his sins and restored his health.

I believe that Jesus showed His mercy and kindness for the sake of the friends who brought the man. They knew their friend. They knew he was the kind of notorious sinner who would be ashamed to be in the presence of God. Even though he suffered this terrible condition because of his sinfulness, he still could not bring himself to

confess and ask absolution. The faith and the determination of those friends was truly impressive. We can appreciate the courage and hope that motivated them to bring their friend before Jesus, despite his sinful life. I believe they wanted the healing of his palsy, but also the conversion of his life.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to witness many instances of friends and family offering up their loved ones for conversion and healing. I take the opportunity to bless those prayers and offerings very seriously. To me, the willingness to continue to pray for our loved ones, when they may not even be praying for themselves, shows tremendous faith and courage.

Many times, those prayers are offered despite the harm done by the object of the prayers to the people who are offering them up. Sometimes, the hope of healing feels very slight, and yet, we continue to give them up in prayer. God is mindful of that kind of faith and courage, and He blesses and honors both the people for whom the prayers are offered and the people who are offering the prayers.

As we say our prayers for all our loved ones today, I want you to have hope and to be courageous and faithful. Bring their conditions to Jesus at the altar, just as the friends of the palsied man brought him to Jesus. These prayers are heard, and they are blessed, both in the hearts of the people we love, and in our own hearts as well. Thank you for your prayers and God bless you all.

***In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.***