

THROUGH THE ROOF

("Forgiving Sins" - Mark 2:1-12)

By Tom Taylor

Jesus came back to Capernaum, entered a house, began to preach The Word
"FULL HOUSE" . . . "STANDING ROOM ONLY"
(... coulda been th' first time these phrases were ever heard!)
"Top" to "Bottom," "Rich" to "Poor," "Big Shot" to "No Shot" – all were there
Teachers of the Law, Pharisees, young and old...an "Open House" like this was rare....

Four men came with a paralyzed friend they carried upon a cot
Did they have a good chance to meet, or even see Jesus? No. No, friend, they did not
One of the four then said to the others, "Please don't think I'm arrogant –
Please understand," he said
"But, if we want Jesus to see our friend . . . we must go over His head!"

And so they did – they did, indeed – up th' outside stairs to the roof
They removed the tiles,
lowered their friend . . .
Faith!??

Look up, Friend – there's your proof!!

When Jesus saw the faith of the four
He looked at their friend on the cot . . . on the floor
All who saw what happened next...will ne'er forget what was done
For Jesus warmly smiled and said: "Your sins are forgiven, My son."

The "folks" were Blessed, but the rulers? Aghast ~ for ONLY God...GOD, alone, can forgive sin
They didn't say it, but they thought it....Guess Who knew what they were thinking?
Yeah – you got that right, my friend!

Jesus said, "Why are you so troubled, why're you so upset?"
"You fail to understand the Truth . . . you don't get it, yet ~ "
"It would've been easy for me to say, 'Get up and walk' – 'easy as talkin' with friends'"
"But you need to know... that the Son of Man... has the authority... to forgive sins...."

He then said to the man, "Get up...pick up your cot and go home."
And the man got up, picked up his cot – and almost forgot – almost took off all alone
But then he turned to the four...
remember the stairs, . . . remember the roof . . . and remember the floor?
So did he – they left, together . . . joyfully

The people were amazed and glorified God

What they had witnessed was miraculous, not merely strange, or interesting, or odd
Remember the Four with a Friend who ignored the door?
And remember the stairs, the roof, the floor?
". . . **We've never seen anything like this before!!**"

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