

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

I (JESUS) SAY TO YOU

Mark 2:11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." (Read the full account of the healing of the Paralytic in Mark 2:1-12)

You realize, don't you, Jesus told the paralytic to do something he was unable to do. He said to him, "take up your bed and go home." He said this to a man who was at the mercy of others to move him and his bed from place to place. He said this to a man who had to be carried by four men to set him at Jesus' feet. When Jesus said, "take up your bed and go home," the man got up, picked up the bed upon which he had been carried into the home and left to the amazement of those who witnessed the miracle Jesus performed.

There were actually two amazing gifts Jesus gave the paralytic man. Both were given by Jesus to the man through His words. First, Jesus said to him, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Then Jesus said to him, "rise, pick up your bed, and go home." Jesus healed both the man's body and soul.

Peter writes, ". . . the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:24-25) Ephesians 6:17 says that the word of God is the "sword of the Spirit" which God gives you to fight the evil one. Moses used the word of God to overcome the Pharaoh of Egypt who refused to let the Children of Israel return to their home country. Jesus spoke the Word of God to overcome the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. Jesus spoke only three words ("I am He") to the crowd that came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane and they fell to the ground. (John 18:6)

Jesus speaks His word to you. He invites you to come to the communion table saying to you, "Take eat, this is my body given into death for you." "Take and drink this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins." (Matthew 26:16-27) By God's grace the Holy Spirit has given you faith to believe and trust Jesus' word He speaks to you. As the paralytic got up and walked out of the house so you rise from the communion rail and walk out of God's house a healed, restored, forgiven sinner.

Jesus' gives His word to you out of His compassion and love for your peace. His word gives you assurance that "though your sins are as scarlet His blood cleanses you of them and makes you whiter than snow." (Isaiah 1:18) To this very day Jesus' word to you is His word of forgiveness.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, send Your Spirit to give me faith to hear, believe and trust Your word and through it receive all the blessings You have earned for me through Your life, death and resurrection." Amen.

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O Keep our faith from failing; Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living, That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory, The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor In Your eternal light.
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