

The Meeter of Needs

Crowds of people followed Jesus because they heard He had the power to heal physical problems. As they listened to Him teach, they soon learned He had the power to help them with other needs as well.

Can you remember how Jesus helped each of the people shown below? Put an X next to the statements that are true. Then look up the Bible verses to check your answers.



Jesus met Nicodemus's needs by

- ☐ answering his questions.
 - ☐ inviting him to come and talk again.
 - ☐ telling him the truth.
- (John 3:1-11)

Jesus met Matthew's needs by

- ☐ giving him a new start in life.
 - ☐ helping him with his business.
 - ☐ accepting him just as he was.
- (Luke 5:27-32)



Jesus met the Samaritan woman's needs by

- ☐ listening to her.
 - ☐ giving her water from the well.
 - ☐ treating her as a valuable person.
- (John 4:7-10; 25-30)

Jesus met the man's needs by

- ☐ answering his questions.
 - ☐ healing his body.
 - ☐ forgiving him for his sins.
- (Matthew 9:1-8)



THROUGH THE ROOF

¹Pronounced kuh-PURR-nee-um. Jesus made this town His headquarters during His work in Galilee.

Jesus returned to the town of Capernaum.¹ Large crowds gathered at the house where Jesus was. Soon there was no room inside. There wasn't even room outside the door. They all wanted to hear Jesus preach God's Word.

Read Mark 2:3-4. What was wrong with the sick man? How did the man's friends get Jesus to notice him?

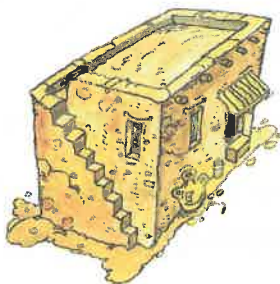


Mark 2:5-12

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Son, your

sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's



²Most homes had flat roofs with outside stairs. Digging a hole in a roof involved removing the clay tiles held up by branches across wood beams.



blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

What was the first need Jesus met for this man? How did the teachers of the law react? Why?

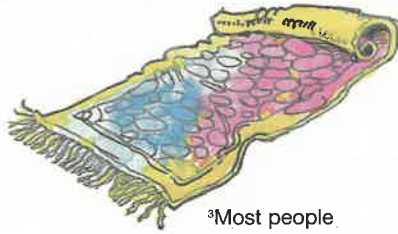
Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?"



Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But

I want you to know

that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat³ and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"



³Most people used a mat or rug for their bed. The mat could have been on a stretcherlike frame.

How did Jesus answer the teachers? What did He tell them He could do? What was the second need Jesus met for this man?

The people were amazed and praised God because they had never seen anything like this before. They could see that Jesus had the power and the authority from God to help the man spiritually (by forgiving his sins) and physically (by healing him). Just as He helped the man on the mat, Jesus can help us with all our needs today.



I Need Help!!!

Jesus met the needs of many people in Bible times, and He's still meeting people's needs today—no matter what they may be. Put a check in front of any of the areas listed below where you need help. Then fill in the blank line in the prayer naming something that is a special need of yours.



I need

- ☐ to like myself more.
- ☐ to care about others.
- ☐ to use my time wisely.
- ☐ to accept people as they are.
- ☐ to control my temper.
- ☐ to stand up for what God says is right.
- ☐ to be more obedient.
- ☐ to know God's love.
- ☐ to have some friends.

KEY VERSE

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

Dear God,
I really need help in all the areas that I've marked, but I most need Your help to _____.

Thank You for caring enough about me that You take care of all my needs—even those I don't know about. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

