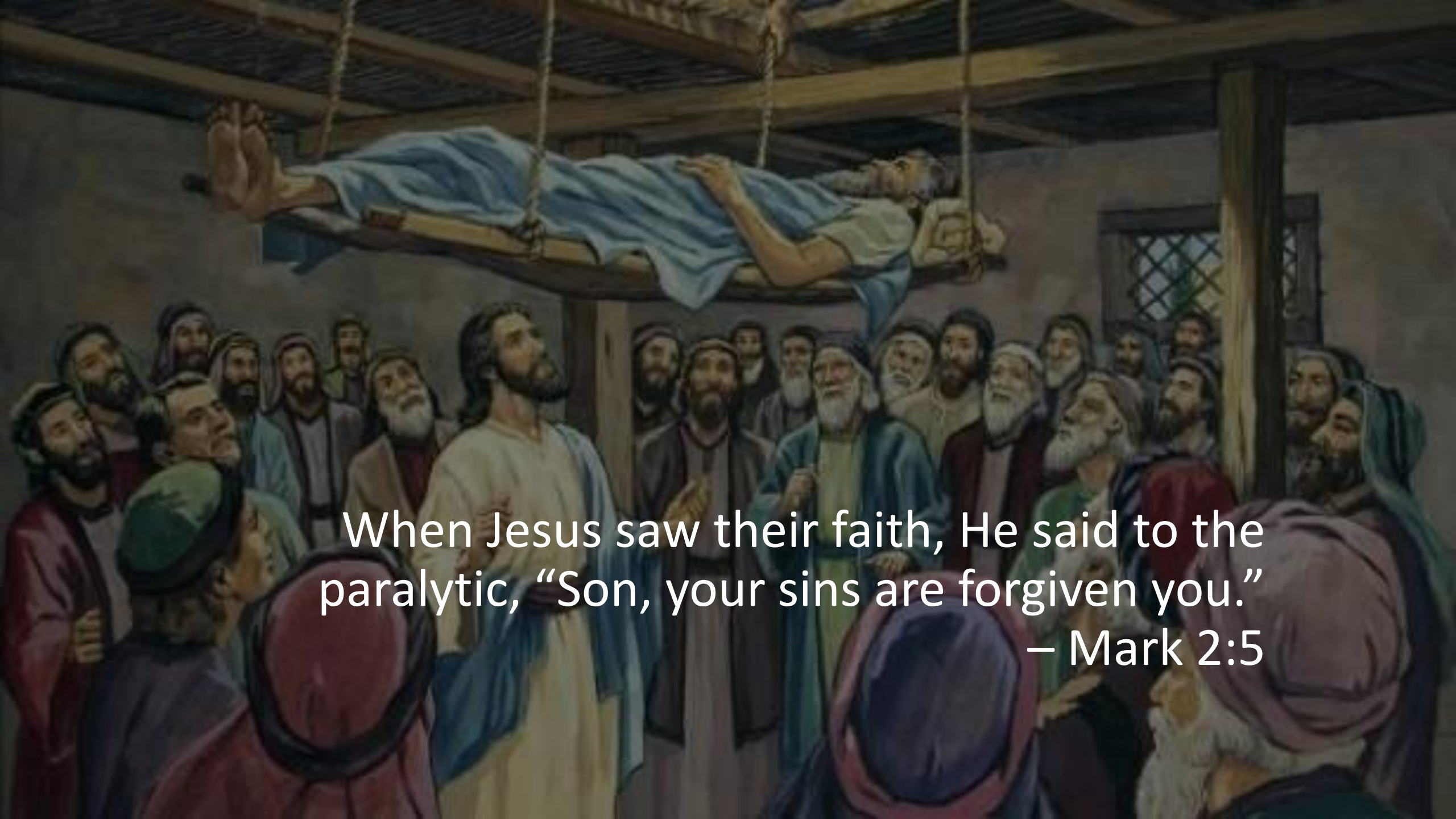




When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
— Mark 2:5



Faith Implies Taking Risks

What is Faith?

- It is possible to believe that something exists, and for this belief to have no practical effect on my life.
- Faith in God is not the conclusion to a process of reasoning
- *“Faith is not the supposition that something might be true, but the assurance that someone is there.”* (Bishop Kallistos Ware)
- Faith is a personal relationship

Risks that test
and measure
our faith



1. Risk of relationships

- “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.” (Matt. 10:37)
 - Early Christians and some converts
- “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell...” (Mk. 9:43)

2. Risk of leaving one's comfort zone



- Jonah
- St. Peter with the Gentiles, like Cornelius
- “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Jos. 1:9)

3. Risk of rejection



- Man Born Blind
- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (Jn. 15:18-19)
- Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven...” (Lk. 6:22-23)



4. Risk of injustice

- Joseph in Potiphar's house
- “Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? 8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!” (1 Cor. 6:7-8)

5. Risk of Confession



- Samaritan woman
- “I have not husband.” (Jn. 4:17)
- Zacchaeus
- “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” (Lk. 19:8)



6. Risk of love

- St. Bishoy
- Giving of alms

Conclusion

- Risk of Relationships
- Risk of leaving one's comfort zone
- Risk of Rejection
- Risk of Injustice
- Risk of Confession
- Risk of Love