

The Faith of Four Friends

Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Prevailing View

If a person was suffering,
it must be because that person –
or that person's parents –
sinned in a particular way
that brought God's judgment.

As a result, they were considered
cursed of God.

Prevailing View

A religious person
would not quickly help
a person in suffering –

for fear that they would be interfering
with God's judgment.

“Job’s Four Friends”

Job lived some time after Abraham

Trusted grace of God: “Sacrifices”
Pointed to Redemption of Christ

Trusted covenant of God: “Jehovah”
Pointed to Union with Christ

Therefore,
he was righteous

“Job’s Four Friends”

God allowed Job to suffer deeply
Job had four friends
They gave him “comfort”

Eliphaz
Bildad
Zophar
Elihu

“Job’s Four Friends”

| FOUR FRIENDS | JOB |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Deficient Theology | Robust Theology |
| Clinical | Passionate |
| Impersonal | Deeply personal |

“Job’s Four Friends”

| FOUR FRIENDS | JOB |
|---|--|
| God is Sovereign | Yes, but also Loving |
| God is Just | Yes, Compassionate |
| Twisted truth to fit Circumstances | Exalted truth despite Circumstances |

“Job’s Four Friends”

| FOUR FRIENDS | JOB |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| The Almighty | Jehovah |
| Held Job Responsible | Held God Responsible |
| Leave God Alone | Called for God’s Presence |

So...

**Job's four friends
Did not comfort him
Instead, they studied him**

God shows up and
comforts Job with His presence
as his friends never could.

Job 42:7

“My wrath is kindled against you -
for you (Job’s friends)
have not spoken
rightly of me.”

The Faith of Four Friends

Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Mark 2:1-12

And when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door.

And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

Mark 2:1-12

**And when they could not get near him
because of the crowd,
they removed the roof above him,
and when they had made an opening,
they let down the bed
on which the paralytic lay.
And when Jesus saw their faith,
he said to the paralytic,
“Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

Mark 2:1-12

Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’?

Mark 2:1-12

**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—
“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,
“We never saw anything like this!”**

1

The Four Friends Defied All Prevailing Social Norms

- Defied bad theology
- Defied that their friend was cursed
- They defied the crowd
- They defied the house

John Calvin

There is still another way
in which God reigns; and that is,
when he overthrows his enemies,
and compels them,
along with Satan their head,
to yield a reluctant subjection
to his authority,
“till they all be made his footstools”
(Hebrews 10:13 .)

2

The Four Friends Believed in Jesus

They put him before Jesus
They gave no instructions to Jesus
They had faith
They trusted Jesus
His power, will, wisdom, and heart

3

Jesus saw the Paralytic's True Need

Jesus didn't immediately
heal the man's paralysis
He forgave the man's sins
Lifted his true curse
Called him "Son"
This is a covenant title

Charles Spurgeon

Note well how Jesus loved His own
which were in the world, yes, loved them to the end
and with what tenderness and gentleness

He bore with them, as a nurse with her child,
for here you see the tenderness and gentleness of God
and the love of the great Father
towards His erring children.

You read of Jesus receiving sinners
and eating with them
and what is this but the Lord God,
merciful and gracious,
passing by transgression, iniquity, and sin?

You see Jesus living as a physician
among those diseased by sin,
with the one aim of healing their sicknesses—
and here you see the pardoning mercy of our God,
His delight in salvation,
and the joy which He has in mercy.

Beloved, I cannot go through the whole life of Jesus
Christ—it is impossible, for time would fail us—but if
you will yourselves select any single incident in which
Jesus appears,
whether in the chamber of sickness
or at the grave, whether in weakness or in power, you
shall in each case behold the glory of God.

Throughout His ministry, which was mainly a period of humiliation, there gleams forth in the character, acts, and person of Jesus the glory of the ever- lasting Father.

His acts compel us not only to admire but to adore.

He is not merely a man whom God favors, He is God Himself.

4

Pharisees Were Angry

This is not right theology!
Jesus cant forgive sins!
Jesus has no right
to interfere with the curse!

Who does He think he is?

Martin Luther

The heathen put their trust
in that which is nothing.

So it is with all idolatry.

It happens not merely in worshipping idols
but rather it happens in the heart.

For the heart seeks help and comfort from
creatures, saints, or devils.

The heart neither cares for God,
nor looks to Him for anything.

It does not believe that He is willing to help.

5

Hallelujah!
Jesus Defies Bad Theology

Not only does he lift this man's curse
Not only does he forgive his sins
But he brings joy and dancing!

Christ is Defiant Against Bad Theology

Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, (*that I
am the Christ!*)

but my Father who is in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of hell
shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:17-18

End of the Story

The man left glorifying God
This mean he was singing.

All were amazed!

Amazement seized them!

We have never seen anything like this!

We have seen extraordinary things today!

Questions

What kind of friend are you?

What do you believe about Jesus?

Do you trust in Christ alone?

Do you believe that Christ hates the curse
more than you do?

Do you study people or seek to
comfort them with the presence of Christ?

Is Christ your comfort?

Do you believe that Christ brings dancing?