

St James News: Thought for the day - Thursday 18th June 2020

Roofs - Revd John Marshall

Maggie said; “Why don’t you write about roofs.” Last week behind our house (in the next road) scaffolding went up. Yesterday they started working on the roof, and we were impressed with the confidence of the roofer. I remembered back to the time when our roof was replaced, and before that the anxiety when water made its way in.

So what must the householder in Capernaum have thought , when in all the crush and confusion he heard the patter of lath and plaster, or equivalent materials – and the room getting lighter than expected.

I remember back to primary school when we were taught about the flat roofs of Biblical times with outside staircases and how people might use it like another room). Do you remember how Rahab hid two spies under the stems of flax on her roof?

That answers the question of how the four determined men got up to the roof. Because on the crush they opened the roof and lowered their friend in front of Jesus. Just think about the size of that hole, it’s a wonder the men didn’t fall in.

Have you thought about the faith of those friends in the healing ability of Jesus? Jesus did heal the man and forgave him.

I must admit that I don’t have so much faith as those men.

(FAITH faith acts in trusting him thanks Maggie)

But it is an encouragement to bring our friends and our world to Jesus in prayer.

Bible Passage: Matthew 9:1-8

9 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

³ At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to

forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.”⁷ Then the man got up and went home.⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

Song: [Father I place into your hands](#)

Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.

Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,
For I know that I am one with you.

Prayer:

O gracious and holy Father,

give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.