

Water to wine

CHARACTERS: Narrator, JESUS, scribes and Pharisees, 4 friends, paralytic, crowd.

PROPS: A sheet or rug to carry the paralytic on.

SETTING: A house in Capernaum

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Matthew 9:2-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

F K reading level: 4.7

NARRATOR: Jesus was in town and a huge crowd came to hear him teach. Some people were happy they were hearing Jesus teach. Some of the crowd had their noses in the air and stuck up expressions on their faces. These were the scribes and Pharisees. They thought they were better than everyone else.

Four friends had a fifth friend who was paralyzed. Since he couldn't move, they had to give up their basketball team. When they played ice hockey, he was goalie because they could prop him up across the goal line but he couldn't block the airborne shots. So the four friends carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed.

But the crowd was so thick, they couldn't get through the door. They were sad, puzzled and frustrated until one of them smacked his head. He had a brain blast. Quickly he pantomimed over the noisy crowd they should climb up on the roof. They did. Then he pantomimed they should dig through the roof. They did that too. Then he motioned they would lower their friend through the hole in the roof and plop him right smack dab in front of Jesus.

The paralyzed friend looked scared as they lowered him but it was all good and nobody dropped their end making him fall.

JESUS: Friend, your sins are forgiven.

NARRATOR: The scribes' and Pharisees' mouths fell open in shock. Who did Jesus think he was to forgive sins, they thought. They shook their fingers at him and scowled. Jesus just smiled and said ...

JESUS: Why are you thinking bad thoughts about me? When you point your finger, you have 3 pointing back at you).

NARRATOR: They liked that even less and began to shake all their fingers at him so none would be pointing back at them. This only made them look more ridiculous.

JESUS: Which is easier, to say to a paralyzed guy, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your sleeping mat and walk'?

NARRATOR: No one dared answer Jesus because they knew he was smarter than they were. They stopped shaking their fingers and stuck their noses back into the air, waiting to see what would happen next. Jesus looked at the paralyzed guy in front of him.

JESUS: Get up, pick up your pallet and go home.

NARRATOR: Immediately the paralyzed guy picked up what he had been lying on, and went home jumping and hollering "Praise God!"

MAN: Praise God!

NARRATOR: The friends were struck with astonishment and began glorifying God to by jumping around and yelling "To God be the glory!"

FRIENDS: To God be the glory!"

NARRATOR: Most everyone else had their mouths hanging wide open. They had to actually use their hands to close their mouths. Then they said in amazement, "We have never seen anything like this."

CROWD: We have never seen anything like this.