A. Faith Elevates Over Obstacles (vs. 1-4):

1. Christ, after much ministry, settled into Peter’s house seemingly seeking to get some rest.
2. Jesus’ presence at Peter’s house became constant noise in the city. People relentlessly talked about it.
3. Jesus spoke to them with no intention of stopping (vs. 13). He exposed to them the inward thoughts and feelings of God’s Words to them.
4. The four men carrying the paralytic brought their friend by themselves and they had no intent on stopping until they find a way to get him to Christ. They carried the pallet committed to get their friend in front of Jesus.
5. His friends had set their minds to continually carry the pallet until they get the paralytic before Christ. They did not ask the paralytic permission and sought his advice. They were intent on getting him healed by Jesus.
6. The paralytic’s four friends tried repeatedly, by themselves, to get their friend to Christ through the crowd, but no one would allow them.
7. They decided to remove the roof once for all and committed to continuously work to get their friend to come down right in front of Jesus.
   a) An ancient flat-roofed house usually had a stairway to the roof, which would have enabled the bearers to carry the paralytic up without difficulty. Uncovered the roof. This was accomplished by digging through the composite of grass, plaster, tiles, and lath, as indicated by Mark’s exoryxantes—had broken it up (AV). The bed was a mattress or pallet, such as was used by the poor.[1]
8. These friends either did this with their hands or went and got tools to get the job done.
9. They continuously kept letting their friend down. This means that the crowd was either going to move or they were going to be crushed.
10. When Mark says “the pallet on which the paralytic was lying” he means that they friends believed that if they did not get the paralytic before Christ their friend would remain this way forever. This is why there was such urgency because Jesus was right there in the city. They did not have to carry him as far if Jesus was out and about throughout a variety of cities.
11. Don’t let obstacles control your destiny because it changes your faith to doubt.
B. Faith Elevates Experiences (vs. 5-9):

1. Jesus with the paralytic right before him and his friends above him, once and for all, recognized that these men had a complete understanding of who Christ is. Whatever teaching they heard from Christ and miracles they saw Christ display caused these men to develop a full divine knowledge of teachings and His ability and power.

2. It is the friends deep conviction and intense trust in God’s Word that drew Christ to the paralytic (James 5:13-16), not the fact that he laid before Him.

3. They demonstrated true faith because their deep convictions in the teaching and healing ministry of Christ moved them to action and their conviction drove them to be steadfast until they accomplish helping their friend lay in front of Jesus.

4. Jesus stopped speaking to the people and continually spoke to the paralytic. The paralytic had Jesus complete attention because of his friend’s actions that were controlled by their faith.

5. It is apparent that particularly to the paralytic his circumstance was determined by his willful, intentional act to disobey God. Not all illnesses are a result of sin. Some examples are Job and the man in John 9:1-3. Maybe this is why the text does not show faith coming from the paralytic.

   a) “Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:13-16; NASU)

6. Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35 – The paralytic is now continuously liberated from any sin that causes him to stand before God as a guilty man. His sins has been discarded as far as the east from the west.

   a) Only God can forgive sins (Exod 34:6–7; Ps 103:3; Isa 43:25; Mic 7:18). Indeed, not even the Messiah would claim such power. [2]

7. The scribes even though their held no political positions led the people. They were well education, the qualified teachers in the synagogues. Their people were overwhelmed by their interpretation of the law. It made the law burdensome.

8. With all the people standing pressing upon Jesus the scribes and Pharisees (Luke 5:17) found a place to continuously sit and listen to the teachings of Jesus.

9. Even though they were sitting and listening they were internally thoroughly disputing how Christ can say this man’s sins are forgiven. Based on the law this would be impossible for Christ to do because only God has the authority to forgive sins.

10. What Christ said became deeply emotional for them.
11. They were continually internally questioning what Christ said and came to their own conclusions. Without speaking to one another they all internally came to the same conclusion.

12. The viewed Christ as continually abusing the reputation of God. He was a false witness of God and He was slanderously saying that He can continuously forgive someone of their sins.

   a) The scribes regarded such talk by this fellow (contemptuous tone) as a pretentious affront to God’s power and authority, blasphemy against God, a serious offense punishable by death from stoning (Lev. 24:15–16). In fact such a charge became the basis for a formal condemnation later (cf. Mark 14:61–64).[3]

13. Two sets of people before Christ, faith experiences Christ power, doubt stimulates a dispute.

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15. Christ who, by His act of forgiveness, is demonstrating His deity now addresses what they are thinking (Luke 5:17). Christ immediately addresses it because He had a full knowledge of all their thoughts.

16. Christ acknowledges that He knows what they are thinking.

17. Christ continuously presses them to provide an answer to the debate that is taking place within them. If they say tell the paralytic to get up and walk then Christ is the healer He has always been. If He says the paralytic is forgiven of sins and then He got up and walk the man’s sins has to have been forgiven in order for him to walk. So in both cases sins were addressed and the man walked.

18. Christ wanted for them to be completely aware, so that there is no doubt at the time of the healing or any time after the healing, that He has the supra-natural power while living on earth to liberate a person from their sins.

C. Faith Elevates Worship (vs. 10-12):

1. What Christ was saying, before the Pharisees and Scribes, was continuously repeated. Christ had no problem with the theological issue they Pharisees and Scribes had so he can say it as often as He choose.

2. This phrase ‘get up’ represents a person who is getting up from the dead to a new life. They man was given a new life in Christ because of his obedience to Christ commands. He did not wait to feel anything he immediately obeyed Christ.

3. Christ commanded the paralytic once and for all to pick up his own pallet. Maybe Christ wants to convince the Pharisees and Scribes that the man is fully healed. He not just able to walk.

4. Christ tells the man to continuously walk until he gets home. Meaning the man was to go no place else. Apparently he did not want the man telling anyone but his family because this creates further problems for Christ. Notice that he did not tell him to go to the temple like He did the leper because the man’s sins were

5. The people, it did not say accept the Pharisees and Scribes. They were all continuously overwhelmed and complete amazed because not only did the paralytic get
up, pick up his pallet and walk he did after Christ forgave him of his sins. This means Christ does have the power to forgive sins so He must have God’s characteristics. This breaks up all their traditional beliefs and fulfills scriptures in the Old Testament.

6. This led them to continuously worship God.
7. They led them to continuously magnify the God for all that He is in His excellent nature. It is amazing to see how what Christ did led them to God.
8. They were continually saying that they were never exposed to the manifestation of God’s divine nature in this manner.
9. Christ healing act, based on the forgiveness of sins, led to a full experience of God’s divine nature.