**MIRACLE #13--(Mark 2:1-12)............."GETTING THE CLAY OUT OF THE WAY"**

**Intro**: **This particular miracle is best remembered by the odd way that the crippled man approached Christ! It seemed that day that everyone was "paying a price" to help another: The 4 men climbing a roof trying not to DUMP the cripple off the roof; then somebody's home got a big hole in it that would later need time-consuming and expensive repairs; then the crowds had to be interrupted because this cripple actually JUMPED AHEAD IN LINE making it a longer wait-time to see Jesus!** The bible tells us that the man was afflicted with “***palsy***”. This means that he was paralyzed! This was a complex neurological problem that even modern medicine cannot reverse! I have used this text to preach on the 4 men involved in the miracle by "carrying their corner of the bed". Others have preached on “***A Ten-Legged Man Meets The Master***”. Others have preached on how Jesus put all those self-righteous, religious snobs in their place! MANY sermons can be acquired from this one story.(a borrowed sermon!-**TOPIC**)

**These men wanted to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus, but couldn’t get him there because of the crowds that blocked the door into the house where Jesus was teaching, verse 4. So, they took the paralyzed man onto the roof of the house, broke up the roof (the CLAY) and lowered their friend down to Jesus through the hole in the roof.** Houses in that day usually had grass & clay roofs...and all through the bible GRASS and CLAY are references to human flesh that fades away!-**(The Potter's House-Jer. 18:1-6) My body is the dust of this earth...and this CLAY will stay with me till I die...and IT can get in the way of what God wants to do in my life!** These men had to dig through the layers of the roof to get the clay out of the way! When they did this, their friend got the help he so desperately needed! **So what's a person to do? Well as the story goes, the clay of our flesh must be “*uncovered*” and “*broken up*” before we can ever experience the Savior’s power and blessing in our lives! Notice what happens when you get the clay out of the way!**

**I. YOU CAN EXAMINE THE PERSON OF JESUS** \***When they got the clay out of the way, they could see Jesus and what He was doing!**

A. **He Became More Discernable** - **As they stood on that roof, the voice of Jesus was dimmed and His face was hidden from view, but when the clay was removed, they could look at Him!** **(Note: Nothing hides the face of our Savior from view any more often that our old, stinking flesh! Our *attitudes*, our *actions*, our *affections*, our *fears*, our *failures*, our *foolishness*, our *sins*, our *shortcomings*, our *silliness* all hide His face and diminish His voice! Our *greed* and our *grudges*, our *hurts* and our *hates*, our *worries* and our *wanderings* all stand between us an our seeing Him in all His glory! Ill. *Nothing hinders my walk with the Lord like I do!)*** But, when the clay of this flesh is “***uncovered***”, that is, seen for what it is, and when it is “***broken up***”, that is, humbled before Him in repentance, the wall of separation between us falls and we can see Him again! If you are going to make it through this life, you must be able to see Him by faith! Just as the sheep must see the shepherd; the bride must see the bridegroom; the son must see the father; the saints must be able to see the Savior! Seeing Him makes the journey bearable!...other than that, they have to watch their friend live a slow and agonizing existence!

B. **He Became More Desirable** - **When the clay was removed, they could see Jesus and the object of their desire became more desirable! Nothing will thrill the saint like being closer with Jesus, when the clay is out of the way! The disciples on the road to Emmaus thought it was all over- Luke 24:13-36, and when they saw Him, everything changed! Note: Are you living in a place, and in such a way where you can see Him?**

**II. YOU CAN ENTER THE PRESENCE OF JESUS...After the clay was taken out of the way, those men were able to lower that sick man right into the very presence of the Lord!**

A. **You Can Discharge Your Burden - When the clay was removed, they were able to literally UNLOAD on Jesus! They were able to give Him their burden! The same is true for the child of God; until you get you old SELF with its attitudes out of the way you will CONTINUE to carry the LOAD, and won't be any help to others around you! It looked as though to crowds were the obstacles, but the ONLY THING that kept them from Jesus was the CLAY ROOF! In order to DISCHARGE your burden, you must put yourself in the POSITION to discharge it!**

 B. **You Can Discover Your Blessing** - **Jesus looks up and sees these men and what they have done to get their friend to Him. He commends them and on the basis of *THEIR* faith, he heals the paralyzed man! WHAT IS IT THAT BREAKS UP THE CLAY???-"their faith did"! -2 Chron 7:14. The song "Sweet hour of prayer" says that "this robe of flesh I'll drop and rise"; and until it drops you and I are going to have to deal with it! Is your clay out of the way, or is it an ongoing hindrance? CLAY MUST BE BROKEN TO BE REMOVED!!!-(Prayer, humility, bible study, holy living!)**

**III. YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF JESUS...After the clay was out of the way, the paralyzed man could get to Jesus. When he got to Jesus, he experienced the Lord’s power in a two-fold way.**

A. **His Cleansing Power** - **Verse 5** Hear, Jesus cleansed this man of his sins! ....These 4 men thought paralysis was the problem, but SIN was the REAL PROBLEM!!! When we uncover the clay of our lives through confession and when we break up the clay of our lives through humble repentance, we can and will experience His cleansing power, **1 John 1:9.** Whatever it is that keeps you away from Him,(The CLAY or the CROWDS) His presence and His power is not worth that high cost! Why not get it uncovered and broken up today?

B. **His Changing Power** - **Verses 10-12 Yes, Jesus touched him on the outside, but He also touched him on the inside! He came into Peter's house being carried by *other people's faith*, but he left under his own power! He met Jesus and everything changed! Before this man met Jesus he could do nothing, but when the clay was taken out of the way, he walked differently, he glorified God and he left everyone scratching their heads at the awesome power of the Son of God!** **That’s what happens when we get the clay out of the way! It will change our walk! It will change our prayer lives. It will make us bold in our witness. It will make us vocal in our praise! It will fill us with excitement and it leave a lost world scratching their heads in amazement at what the Lord has done!**

**Conc**: Are you in a position today to Examine His Person; Enter His Presence and Experience His Power? If the clay is in your way, you can start breaking the roof up in this altar.