

Reading: Matthew Chapter 9 verses 2-8

There was a town called Capernaum on the shores of the lake. The people lived in houses with flat roofs and open doorways and outside staircases leading to the roof, and usually surrounded by a courtyard, with perhaps a fig tree growing there.

Jesus spent quite a lot of time in this little town, and the people of Capernaum would be familiar with the sight of the kindly teacher, surrounded by his disciples and followed by men and women, old and young, anxious to hear what he had to say and to see the wonderful works he performed on the sick.

The word of Jesus' teaching and power had spread far and wide until some of the cleverest men in the land, even from Jerusalem itself, had come to Capernaum to hear Jesus and to see the miracles which he did. One day we find Jesus in one of the houses in Capernaum surrounded by these "Pharisees and doctors of the law" with the common people of the town crowding round the door and in the courtyard of the house, to see what was going on. "And the power of the Lord was present to heal them", we are told.

There was a very poor man in a house nearby unable to move his arms or legs. He would probably know that Jesus was in the town; he would long to get to him, having heard of all the wonderful things he had done. This poor man must have been thrilled when four of his friends so kindly offered to take him on his mattress to the house where Jesus was, but how disappointed he would be, on arrival, to find such a crowd. But his friends were not worried, they climbed the outside staircase and removed part of the roof, and lowered the man in through the roof. Jesus told the man to "Arise take up thy bed, and go unto thine house". The man was over joyed and very happy that he was able to walk again, his friends would have been very happy for him too, that he had been cured.

Point to remember: Jesus used the Power God had given him to heal the sick.
We have to show compassion to those who are sick and less fortunate than ourselves.