

GETTING THE JAB

By Bill Pugh



There were 200 of us aged over 60 lined up at our local clinic late on a Saturday, waiting in groups of 10 to have our first injection to protect us and everyone else from COVID-19. Slowly we moved up the line. There were staff to reassure and answer our questions, nurses and a doctor on duty. It was our group's turn. Seated, a kindly nurse gave each of us our jab and we moved to a waiting room for a few minutes to ensure we had no bad reaction. Such a seamless and encouraging experience. Particularly noticeable in the lineup were family members, carefully guiding elderly parents through the process. Such lovely people.

It reminded me of that healing miracle in the Gospels. Jesus was teaching in a home at Capernaum. It was packed out. Four friends came with a paralysed man for Jesus to heal. There was no way they could enter. So they climbed up on to the roof, made an opening and lowered their friend down for Jesus to heal him.

Jesus was amazed at their concern. He said to the paralysed man, "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up and immediately went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like that."

Reflection:

Read the Gospel accounts in Mark 2: 1-12 and Luke 5:17-26. Note the side arguments of the scribes and Pharisees who challenged Jesus' authority. Praise God for the carers in hospitals and home who keep us in touch with the source of healing.

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