

BRINGING OTHERS TO JESUS

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Mark 2:1-12

1. At this point in Jesus' ministry we find Him:
 - a. Attracting great crowds.
 - b. Avoiding some areas for the time being.
 - c. Beginning to experience opposition from the Jewish religious leaders.
 - (1) In Luke's account of this incident we are told, "One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing." Luke 5:17
 - (2) They were not there to listen and learn, rather they were there to listen and oppose.
2. There were six main players in this passage.
 - a. The paralytic:
 - (1) His was a hopeless situation.
 - (2) In himself he was helpless.
 - (3) His problem was somehow related to sin.
 - b. The paralytic's four friends:
 - (1) They cared about their friend—hopeless, helpless sinners need friends who care.
 - (2) They were men of faith—hopeless, helpless sinners need friends who believe that Jesus can make a difference.
 - (3) They were men of action—theirs was an active faith.
 - c. The Lord Jesus Christ—God's answer to the man's need.
3. If we would be instrumental in bring men to Jesus we must possess the same kind of faith that these four men did.

I. Their faith enabled them to work together.

- A. They cared as individuals, but on their own they could not have gotten their friend to Jesus.
- B. Together they were able to accomplish what needed to be done.

NOTE: A church should be a cooperating body of believers who work together to accomplish a shared mission.

- C. The bottom line is that we need one another in order to accomplish God's will for our lives.

1. Ephesians 4:15-16

"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

2. Hebrews 10:24-25

"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

II. Their faith motivated them to overcome obstacles.

A. How were they going to move their friend? Matthew 9:2

“And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed.”

B. How were they going to get him through the crowd?

NOTE: Sadly there are many people who are actually hindrances when it comes to bring people to Jesus.

C. How were they going to get him up the outside stairs to the flat roof of the house?

D. How were they going to get him through the roof and into the room?

1. We will tear a hole through the roof.

2. We will tie ropes to the four corners of the bed and lower our friend down. Luke 5:19-20

“But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.”

E. They had two other problems that are not mentioned here:

1. Paying for the damage.

2. Overcoming the possible protests of their friend who may not have been in full agreement with their methods.

III. Their faith moved Jesus to heal their friend.

A. Notice that Jesus **saw** their faith. Mark 2:5

“And Jesus, **seeing** their faith said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

NOTE: I personally believe that Jesus was referring to the faith of all five men, because at some point the paralytic became a believer or his sins would not have been forgiven.

B. Their faith also gave Jesus the opportunity to confront His foes.

1. Mark 2:6-7

But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

NOTE: The scribes and Pharisees present believed that sin and sickness were related.

2. Mark 2:8-11

Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? 10 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home."

NOTE: Based on current religious thought the paralytic would not be able to obey Jesus unless his sins were forgiven.

C. Is our faith a visible, observable faith?

IV. Their faith led to several outcomes.

A. The healing of paralytic. Mark 2:12

And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

B. Shared joy on the part of the former paralytic and his friends. Luke 5:25

Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God.

NOTE: It is hard to imagine the scene that must have followed as the healed man and his friends rejoiced together.

C. God was glorified by most of those present. Luke 5:26

They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

NOTE: The Jewish leaders were not rejoicing.

APPLICATION

1. Most of the people present that day were spectators, but the four men of faith were active participants.
2. Paul referred to himself and others as, "God's fellow workers." I Corinthians 3:9
3. God has not called us to be spectators, rather we are to be men and women of faith; actively involved in being God's instruments in the lives of others.
4. He wants us to publicly identify with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. He also wants us to be accountable to, and actively involved, in a local body of believers.