

For the One - The Unable ONE

Introduction:

What are you willing to do? How far are you willing to go? How much effort are you willing to put into helping others encounter and know the love of Jesus Christ? For a group men in Capernaum during Jesus' time – a whole lot!

In the Gospel of Mark, we are given an example of what difference the perseverance and faith of a few people can make in a person's life. Carrying their friend on a mat through a large crowd, pulling him up on a roof, making a hole in the roof and then lowering him down in front of Jesus was no easy task, and yet they knew the reward for the paralyzed man (not for themselves) would be great.

Jesus's command to "pick up your cross daily and follow me," (Luke 9:23) and the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7) are illustrated well by the actions of the paralyzed man's friends. As followers of Christ, we are asked to respond in faith similarly. Knowing that we have been sought and found by our Great Shepherd, that we are forgiven and have new/eternal life through God's only Son, we are called to reach out and share the love of Christ with the world around us. Because when we do Jesus heals, transforms, and saves lives.

Read Your Bible

- Luke 15:1-7
- Mark 2:1-12

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. In Mark chapter 2, how did the people of Capernaum hear about Jesus being there?
2. Who brings the paralyzed man to Jesus, and what do you think would prompt them to go to the lengths they did?
3. Why are the paralyzed man's sins forgiven?
4. Notice that four men had to take up and lower the mat of the paralyzed man to bring him to Jesus, then Jesus commands the paralyzed man to "get up, take your mat, and go home." How do you imagine the paralyzed man felt and responded as he found the ability to do as Jesus commanded?
5. Considering this story, what role do you think the faith of the people in your life plays in your own walk with God?
6. Who do you more identify with in this passage from Mark and why: the crowd, the paralyzed man, or his friends?
7. The paralyzed man's life would have looked drastically different after his encounter with Jesus, body healed and sins forgiven. In what ways have you seen drastic changes in yourself/others after encountering or spending time in prayer with Jesus?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?

3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness and grace to us. We thank you for those whom you placed in our lives to help us come to faith in you to find forgiveness, healing, and new life. May we respond in faith, similarly, sharing your love and mercy with the people in our lives. Increase the faith and energy of us and all your church to continue to reach out with the Good News of Jesus Christ, so that more hearts would turn to you and your kingdom would increase. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.