

Bringing Souls to Christ – Part 2

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AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

Text:

Mark 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. 2: And straightway many were gathered together, **insomuch that there was no room to receive them**, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. 3: And they come unto him, **bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four**. 4: And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. 5: **When Jesus saw their faith**, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, **thy sins be forgiven thee**. 6: But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, 7: Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? **who can forgive sins but God only?** 8: And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? 9: Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? 10: But **that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins**, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) 11: I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. 12: And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; **insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God**, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Introduction

In this familiar story that we read in Mark chapter 2, there are at least **six principles** that every child of God can learn and apply to make a difference in our community for Jesus' sake. There are **six significant things** I want us to see in this narrative. We have considered the first three last Sunday, namely **Crisis, Compassion, and Cooperation**.

I - Crisis

This story begins with a man in crisis He was paralytic, so that **he cannot stand or walk, making him helpless**. We don't know much about this paralyzed man, all we know is of this man is that he was unable to move, unable to get around on his own. His real dilemma is that **he could not get to Jesus on his own**. But out of that crisis these four men came. It takes people to bring people to Jesus. All of us know people who don't know Jesus and **we need to bring them to Jesus** and the question is, what are we willing to do to make that happen?

II - Compassion

The next thing we see in this story is the **compassion** of these four men who carried the man of palsy. Again, we don't know much about these men but what we do know is this, **they cared enough for their friend** that they carried him to bring Him to Jesus. They were moved with

compassion for their friend. Compassion made the difference. Because **four men cared, one man got to Jesus**. Oh, may God make us compassionate Christians and bring our non-Christian friends, family, coworkers, neighbors to Jesus.

III - Cooperation

Not only do we see crisis and compassion in this story, we also see cooperation.

[Mark 2:3](#) And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

Notice the paralytic man was carried by four men. These men were together, with **one mind and one goal**, and that is to get their friend to Jesus. Winning the lost in Murrieta **cannot be done by one Christian alone**. If everyone who has seen the crisis will together have compassion and cooperation what would happen in Murrieta and its neighboring communities? I believe **we will be more effective in winning the lost if we do it together**.

Today, I want us to consider the last three, namely, **Commitment, Courage and Conviction**.

IV – Commitment

The next thing I see in this story is the **commitment** of these four men.

[Mark 2:2](#) And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was **no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them**.

As they approach the house where Jesus was preaching, they discovered that the house was **completely crowded** with people that there was **no more room, not even at the front door**.

So, they said to one another, *“It can’t be done, there’s no way we can get in. So, let’s go home and come back tomorrow.”* No! That’s not what happened.

What happened next shows their commitment. They climb up the roof and started tearing down the roof and made a hole big enough, so they can lower their paralytic friend.

These men were **committed enough** to say no we are **not going to quit**. They did not allow obstacles to stop them. **They were determined** to get their crippled friend to Jesus. As these men met obstacle as they bring their friend to Jesus, so we too **will encounter all kinds of obstacles and inconveniences** when we attempt to get our friends and loved ones to Jesus. It is not easy to get people to Jesus. As soon as you get involved in winning people to Christ you will discover that **Satan and all his minions will come to work against you**. There will be many things that will get in the way. But **there must be commitment and perseverance because it is easy to get discouraged**.

And many times, it will seem impossible. There will be cases where humanly speaking it does look impossible. But it is not impossible.

[Mark 10:23](#) And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! [24](#): And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that

trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25: It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26: And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27: And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

This paralytic man got to Jesus because **four men were determined and committed**. They were committed enough that they refuse to be stopped and to go back emptyhanded.

May God raise more Christians committed to the cause of Christ and His gospel.

V - Courage

The next thing I see in this narrative is the **courage** of these four men. Just imagine how much courage it took to tear off the roof. While they were tearing the roof, I'm sure there were people there who **criticized** and **made fun of them**. But they didn't care about the criticism and laughter. Isn't that the reason why so many of us do not even attempt to bring souls to Christ; because nobody wants to be criticized, nobody wants to be laughed at, nobody wants to be rejected.

But these men were courageous. They were bold. They were not ashamed. They were willing to do whatever it takes to get their friend to the feet of the Lord Jesus, even if it means of being ridiculed and criticized.

These men were **willing to pay the price**. They literally did. There was no record that they asked one another, "*who is going to pay for the roof?*"

They were just determined to get this man to Jesus. They knew that **this man's soul is worth more than the roof**. They knew that this man's soul is worth more than a house. They knew that this man's soul is worth **more than all the wealth and treasures of the world**.

[Mark 8:36](#) For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

These men saw the crisis, they saw the obstacle, but nothing would stopped them. They were committed and they were courageous and where did their commitment and courage come from? This leads me to the last significant thing we can learn form this story.

VI - Conviction

Their **commitment** and their **courage** are the **outcome of their conviction**. These men have a deep conviction.

[Mark 2:5](#) **When Jesus saw their faith**, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Whose faith? Whose faith is Jesus talking about? The faith of the four men. These men had faith that Jesus would heal their friend. They believed that Jesus has power to heal, or else they would not even bother to carry their friend to Jesus. They believed that Jesus Christ was the only way

and they believe that if they got this man to the Lord Jesus that He would heal Him. Because of their faith and conviction, they acted with commitment and courage.

Isn't that what we need today? We need a faith that is persistent. **We need a faith that will not give up** regardless of obstacles and difficulties. Do we believe that Christ is **the only way**? Do we really believe that there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved? Do we really believe that **if someone dies without Christ, hell is their eternal destination**?

Are we convinced that Jesus still saves? If we are not convinced, we will never be a blessing to the unbelievers. If we have little faith we will never help anybody to have faith. The faith in our life helps brings some faith to other's life.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23: For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24: Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

These four men were convinced. They know **they have no ability to heal and to save** their paralyzed friend, **but they were convinced that Jesus can**. And they knew that they have the responsibility to bring their paralytic friend to Jesus.

Closing Thoughts

Let me conclude this sermon by directing your attention to our Lord. We saw the compassion of these four men, but now I want you to see **the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ**. Jesus saw the crisis of this paralytic man and He was moved with compassion on him and healed him. **But before He healed him, He forgave his sins.**

Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, **Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.**

The greatest need of this man is not healing but forgiveness and this is true for all of us. Our greatest need is **to be forgiven and to be reconciled to God our Creator**. So, before Jesus does anything else, Jesus forgives the sins of the paralyzed man. Because healing him will **ultimately be useless if he remains unforgiven** and lost in his sins and suffer eternally in hell.

The greatest evidence of Christ's compassion is when **He graciously forgave** the paralyzed man. What these four men want was physical healing for their friend, but **they got more than what they wanted**. Their friend received spiritual healing. When we faithfully bring people to Jesus, **we always get more blessings than what we hope and ask for**. O, the joy of seeing our friends and loved ones brought to the saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. **Not only is there rejoicing here, there is also rejoicing in Heaven!**

Do you want your friends and loved ones come to the saving knowledge of Christ? If you are true Bible Christian today, I know you do. Then attempt to bring them to the place where they

can here the Gospel. **The only hope for this world is when the church picks the people up on a stretcher and brings them to the feet of Jesus.** This responsibility rests with us all.

God has established the Church - to be the world's only hope and the four men in this story give us a visual image of the essential qualities we need – **compassion, cooperation, commitment, courage, and conviction.**

When Jesus saw their faith? **I wonder what does Jesus see when He sees you and me?** Is it lack of faith or strong conviction that He still saves? If we have little faith we will never help anybody to have faith. The faith in our life helps brings some faith to other's life. No, our faith will not save them, but Jesus honors our faith by giving faith to the faithless. For faith honors God and God honors faith!

Today, we need the church to rise up and be men and women, boys and girls of faith, and go out and bring the unsaved to hear the Gospel.

There are people who will never come to church, unless you personally ask them and invite them. Next Sunday is a great opportunity to do that. How about you, will you do your part? Will you invite your friends and loved ones and get them sit under the preaching of the Gospel? Will you be willing to say, *"I will invite them; I will pick them up; I will sit with them at the service; I will drop them off after the service?"* Are you willing to do whatever it takes to get them to Jesus?

And when they come pray that the Gospel will come to them not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance?

May God bless you as you do your part!

AMEN!