

Men on a Mission

Mark 2:1-12

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I. Background

- A. Jesus returns from a long preaching trip.
 - 1. He returns to Capernaum to relax and be refreshed.
 - 2. Capernaum is located a few miles from His hometown of Nazareth and served as His ministry headquarters.
- B. The people got news of His return and a crowd gathered at the house Jesus was staying.
 - 1. The crowd gathered because they were familiar with Jesus and His ministry.
 - 2. Jesus performed many miracles at Capernaum.
 - a. He healed a demon-possessed man. (Mk 1:23-26)
 - b. He healed Peter's mother-in-law. (Mk 1:29-31)
 - c. He taught "with authority". (Mk 1:20-21)

Lesson: Ministry is hard work and when you want to take a break sometimes ministry will not let you.

- C. The text states that Jesus began to teach the people. Preaching and teaching always go before miracles because the miracles serve as a sign of authenticity.

Example: A few years ago I purchased a diamond ring and they gave papers of authenticity, which certified the stone to be a diamond.

II. Honesty to See a Work

A. *The Men had to See a Need*

- 1. There was a paralyzed man with four friends but they had to admit there was a need.
- 2. Paralysis can come from many causes – inflammation, injury or tumors on the spine and is always considered incurable.
- 3. The number one obstacle to getting help is not a shortage of resources or compassion but denial.

B. *The Men had to Seek a Remedy*

- 1. The goal of these four men was to bring their friend to Jesus. They believed that Jesus could cure this incurable illness.
- 2. The church's goal is to bring the problem to Jesus and not try to solve the problem.

III. Humility to Do a Work

A. *The Men Put Aside their Agendas*

- 1. These four men put aside their personal goals and agendas for the good of one man.

2. They had to put aside the fishing trip, football game, over time on the job and a day of rest for the good of another.
But they stayed focus on the main objective – get their friend to Jesus.
3. Christianity is not about me but it's about we.

B. The Men Picked up the Task

1. There were only four men but that was enough if all of them picked up an edge of the cot.

IV. Harmony in the Work

- A. Four men carrying the four corners of a cot had to walk and work in harmony and unity.
 1. They carried the burden of a grown man equally.
 2. The church wants uniformity but God commands unity of believers.
- B. What would happen, if one man carrying the cot decided to go in another direction? The paralyzed man is dropped and injured even more.

Lesson: We must be in agreement to walk in harmony. Amos 3:3 states, "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

V. Hang-in-there Attitude About the Work

A. The Men had to Overcome Challenges

1. The crowd – blocked them from getting the man to Jesus.
2. The critics – once Jesus began ministering to the man the scribes became critical.

B. The Men had to be Creative

1. When they realized the door was blocked they improvised and ripped off the roof.
2. The roofs then were flat and consisted of a wooden crossbeam overlaid with branches and mud.

VI. Conclusion

- A. When Jesus saw their faith
 1. Jesus saw the faith of the four men carrying their friend.
Lesson: Faith without works is dead. Many of us are here today because of the faith of another.

- B. Jesus spoke to his sin first and then to his sickness

Example: Bumblebee faith