

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What are examples of the needs that can make a person open to an encounter with Jesus?
2. Do you or anyone you know have these needs?

BIG IDEA

Whether bringing someone else or being brought ourselves, if we come before Jesus in humility we receive what we truly need.

READ TOGETHER

Mark 2:1-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on our study of Mark so far, what authority and power has Jesus displayed? Is there one expression of Jesus' power that impresses you most? What implications could that power and authority have for your life?
2. Read Mark 2:1-4 again as well as Mark 1:32.
 - a. What do you think motivated the 4 men who carried the paralyzed man's stretcher? What reservations or hesitations do you think they may have had to overcome? What challenges do those with needs face in coming to Jesus? How can you help them overcome those barriers?
 - b. How can we avoid seeing people with needs as interruptions? Jesus seemed unfazed by the interruption of the paralyzed man. What type of shift in attitude would it take to see them as appointments set up by God?
 - c. **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT TO JESUS?** How can you begin to bring them to Him? Who is bringing you to Jesus when you face trouble?
3. Read Mark 2:5-12.
 - a. One notable feature of the passage is the lack of dialogue between Jesus and the paralyzed man and his stretcher bearers. They simply brought the man and placed him before Jesus and trusted Him to do what was necessary. When confronted with a specific issue, how difficult can it be to trust the response to God?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- b. “Many of us first start going to God, going to church, because we have problems, and we’re asking God to give us a little boost over the hump so that we can get back to saving ourselves, back to pursuing our deepest wish. The problem is that we’re looking to something beside Jesus as Saviour. Almost always when we first go to Jesus saying, ‘This is my deepest wish,’ his response is that we need to go a lot deeper than that.” **Timothy Keller – King’s Cross. Pg 30.** Pastor Ron said that we often get sidetracked by focusing on the symptoms, the pain of our need. In the midst of pain, how can we avoid coming to Jesus simply as the solution for our problems? How could we ensure that we are seeking Him and not simply relief? (Matthew 6:33) Have you ever asked one thing of Jesus and received another?
4. The paralyzed man’s core issue was not paralysis. According to Jesus’ response what was it? Read Romans 3:23; 5:23, Daniel 9:9, 1 John 1:8-10. What is the universal human need? If you have received forgiveness from Christ, talk about what it has meant to you.
 5. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and Mark 2:8-10. It seems that Jesus is saying that there are a lot of people who can declare healing but only One who can absolve of guilt. By forgiving the man’s sin what is Jesus saying about himself?
 6. How can we present the need for forgiveness to people without bringing condemnation?

CHALLENGE

1. Who in your life needs to be brought to Jesus? What obstacles might you face?
2. Who in your life is bringing you to Jesus? What need(s) do you have? Are you seeking Jesus above the solution?
3. Have you received forgiveness from Jesus?

PRAYER

Pray for God to show you who he is calling you to bring to Jesus.

Pray and receive God’s forgiveness.