

## THE NEED FOR STRETCHER BEARERS

### Mark 2:1-12

Intro: We have a miracle working God. And truly He has done great things: "Great things He hath taught us, Great things He hath done, And great our rejoicing in Jesus the Son."

I Want to speak tonight about our miracle working Savior.

1. The lame walk, the blind see, the dead live again.
2. When He speaks peace be still, the wind and the waves obey His voice. It is not always God's will to still the wind and waves. "Sometimes He calms the storm, SOMETIMES HE CALMS ME."

The miracle that we are preaching about tonight affords proof of the authority and power of Jesus.

1. The authority of Christ to forgive sins is illustrated in this miracle. He alone has this authority (Acts 4:12).
2. Jesus Christ has the power to heal the sick: physically and spiritually (vs. 10),

The responsibility of the believer to bring others to Christ is shown plainly in the passage before us.

The elements of the miracle are set before in verses 1-12. We have:

1. The burden of four men.
2. The breaking up of the roof
3. The bed that is empty

#### I Vss.1-3, THE BURDEN OF FOUR MEN

A. These men were men with a burden, a burden to get a friend to Jesus. We need to be burdened about getting men to Christ.

1. Psalm 126:5-6: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy, He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing..."
2. Philip had a burden for Nathaniel so he sought him out and brought him to Christ (John 1:45-46).

B. We don't know a lot about these four men; we do not know:

1. Their names although the passage has been spiritualized and names like, Faith, Hope, Love, and Grace have been attached to them.
  2. How long they had been born again; when did they come to Christ as Savior? Even those who are newly born again can point folks to Jesus as did the woman at the well you cried out: "Come see a man."
- C. There are some wonderful things that we do know about these men.
1. We know that they had genuine concern for their friend. Jude 22-23 says, "And of some have compassion making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire..."
  2. These men were convinced that the Lord Jesus Christ could meet the need of the hour. Philippians 4:19: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
  3. Four men, these four men of Mark two, were burdened enough to go. We don't go because we are not burdened enough to do so. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).
- D. By not going to the world with the Gospel, we neglect God's commands, and the lost go on in sin.
1. Every believer is to be a Missionary, and an Ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).
    - a. Vs. 18, "Reconciliation"-Greek *katallage*, NT "restoration of the favor of God to sinners through the payment of blood."
    - b. Vs. 19, "Committed" Gr. *Tithemi* "to place, put, lay down." The ministry of reconciliation has been laid on us.
    - c. Vs. 20, "Beseech" Gr. *Parakaleo*, "to come alongside, beg, entreat."
    - d. Vs. 21, This is our message, Christ the substitute.

## II. Vs.4, THE BREAKING UP OF THE ROOF

- A. The four men who are bringing their friend to Jesus approach the house.

1. The house was crowded, too crowded to get in by way of the door.
  2. They faced obstacles in bringing their friend to Jesus. There are obstacles in bringing people to Christ Jesus.
    - a. There is the obstacle of temptations, the temptation to not knock on that door, to not hand out that tract, or to not open your mouth in witness of the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man..."
    - b. There are also the strongholds of life that get in our way. These are obstacles to victory in serving Christ (2 Corinthians 10:4-5. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds..."
- B. How these men overcame the obstacles.
1. They looked up, and when they did, they found the solution. "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills..."
  2. We do not find many solutions by looking down, nor do we find many solutions when we are down, backsliden, and complacent. We need to fly like the Eagle, and not eat acorns with the Turkeys. LOOK UP, LOOK UP!
- C. The roof of the house must be torn open for the roof provides a way to Christ Jesus.
1. This is the solution, but it is costly.
  2. Are we will to pay the price of getting people to Christ? Whatever the cost may be we must point folks to the Saviour.

**WIN THE LOST AT ANY COST**

"As we look around us, all the fields are white,  
Ripened unto harvest and so swiftly comes the night.

Christians must get busy, there is work to do,  
Here's an urgent task awaiting you.

Chorus: Souls are crying, men are dying,  
Won't you lead them to the cross.

Go and find them, help to win them,  
Win the lost at any cost.

Go out and win, rescue from sin, Day's almost gone  
Low sinks the sun.  
Souls are crying, men are dying, Win the lost at any cost.

III. Vss. 5-11, THE BED THAT IS EMPTY

- A. Vs. 5, The Bible says, "When Jesus saw their faith..."
1. Not the faith of one or two, their faith! All five had faith. "Faith" GR. *Pistis*, "Conviction of the truth with holy fervor joined to it."
  2. When they headed to where Jesus was, four had faith to go to Christ. When they returned, five had faith.
  3. The four worked together to get a friend to Jesus. In Independent Missions, we work together to get folks to Christ.
- B. In verse five, Jesus says: "Son thy sins be forgiven thee." Forgiveness has priority over the healing of the body. I love the GR. For forgiven in this verse, it is *apithemi*, "To send away."
1. Vss. 6-8, Here we have the recorded the reaction of the scribes. We who preach the Gospel will always have opposition.
  2. Vss. 9-10, Jesus illustrates that He is God, and He has the authority to forgive sins, the authority to send them away.
  3. Vs. 11, "Take up thy bed and go thy way into thine own house." Reminds us of Mark 5:19: "Go home to thy friends..."

Conclusion: Who is waiting for you to bring them to the Savior?