

Messages from a Mugging: 4-of-a-Kind Beats a Full House

Mark 2:1-12

 Luke 10:33b-34 (GW) “When the Samaritan saw him, he felt sorry for the man, ³⁴ went to him, and cleaned and bandaged his wounds. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

We need to determine that our friends are worth it.

 Mark 2:1-3 (NIV) “A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. ² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four of them.”

We need to bust through every barrier.

 Mark 2:4 (NIV) “Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.”

We need to know that Jesus will see our faith.

 Mark 2:5a (NIV) “When Jesus saw their faith...”

 Mark 2:5b (NIV) “...He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

We need to anticipate that critics will be present.

 Mark 2:6-7 (NIV) “Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

 1 Peter 4:12-14 (NIV) “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

We need to acknowledge the authority of Jesus.

 Mark 2:8-9 (NIV84) “Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?”

 Mark 2:10-12 (NIV84) “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

IMPACT

- Imitating Christ
- Meeting Needs
- Proclaiming the Good News
- Assimilating people into the church
- Celebrating God
- Teaching the Word of God

 *Is there a need that you need God to meet? Which of your friends needs to be brought to Jesus? Are you willing to do whatever it takes to get them to Him? In what ways have critics tried to stop you? Which one do you see as more important: Forgiveness of sin or Physical Healing? Is Jesus the ultimate authority in your life?*