



Bringing Friends to Jesus

By Shannon Ford on May 11, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Mark 2

In our reading from Mark 2, Jesus is back at Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee--the home base for His Galilean ministry. Jesus is probably at Peter's house and is preaching God's Word. His preaching attracts such a large crowd that the door and windows are open to allow the crowd to hear Jesus. The house is packed allowing no one to enter.

Four men believed Jesus had the power to heal their paralyzed friend. They bring their paralyzed friend on a makeshift stretcher to the house where Jesus is teaching, but they cannot get through the crowd. However, their faith is resolute. They will NOT be deterred. No matter the barrier, they are taking their friend to Jesus.

These four men haul their friend up to the roof and quickly started dismantling the roof. They break the dried mud into large chunks and hurl it away. One by one, they yank stick after stick after stick out of the ceiling. All the while dirt, chunks of dried mud and sticks are raining down on the crowd. Before anything can be said, the four men lower their paralyzed friend through the roof down to Jesus. Jesus completely heals the man physically and spiritually. Then the man walks out the front door with his mat under his arm.

In this passage we see how four men are determined to bring their friend to Jesus. This passage teaches us some spiritual truths we can apply for our lost family members and friends.

- Caring friends bring friends to Jesus.
- Bringing friends to Jesus takes much determination.
- Bringing friends to Jesus involves overcoming obstacles.
- Bringing friends to Jesus results in changed lives.

According to Thom Rainer, "Ninety-six percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if they are invited." In other words, more than nine out of 10 of the unchurched said they would come to church if they were invited. I cannot think of anything more important than bringing our lost friends to Jesus. The question is, "What are you going to do about it?"

PRAYER: Lord, give us a burden for our lost friends. Do not allow the enemy to make us hesitant about inviting them to come with us to church. Help us to be determined to bring our friends to church where they can hear the good news and meet Jesus. Do not allow fear of awkward conversations or rejection stop us. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 3

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