

GETTING OTHERS TO JESUS

Luke 5:17-26

One day He was teaching, and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the Law sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. ¹⁸ And some men were carrying a man on a stretcher who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. ¹⁹ But when they did not find any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. ²⁰ And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began thinking of the implications, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, except God alone?" ²² But Jesus, aware of their thoughts, responded and said to them, "Why are you thinking this way in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say: 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher, and go home." ²⁵ And immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶ And they were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God. They were also filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today!" (Luke 5:17-26)

I. The Men Had a Mission

- Jesus is in Galilee and he is going through the region and he is teaching and healing.
- Galilee is a decent sized area with around 200 villages and towns in it.
- One day as Jesus is going about teaching he stops in a house and begins to teach.
- Well, what happens is people hear that Jesus is in the house. Jesus is in their area, their village.
- He isn't in Jerusalem, or Rome, but he is in Galilee, he is down the road at cousin Suzie's house.
- So everyone hears that Jesus, the one who can heal the sick, make the lame walk again, cause the blind to see, and exercise demons is at the house so they come to see Jesus.
- The house also had others in attendance. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees who had heard Jesus teach; they were impressed with him and even a little jealous of him, they came from all around, even Judea to listen to and question him.

- So, while teaching and healing a group of guys show up with their friend to get Jesus to heal him.
- These men were single-minded in their focus. They didn't worry about the crowds, their work schedule, their vacation time, obligations; they had a mission and it drove them.

II. The Men Had an Eager Expectation

- These men had never met Jesus. Probably never saw him, but they believe, they actually believed Jesus could heal their friend.
- They took the risk. Why? They took the risk because the mission was worth it.
- Throughout scripture we see people take the risk; we see people have great expectations. Why? Because the mission. The mission is worth it.
- David faces Goliath. Why? Because the mission was worth it. Joshua leads Israel into a vastly superior land to take it for the Lord. Why? Because the mission was worth it.
- Elijah battles hundreds of prophets of Ba-al on Mt. Carmel. Why? Because the mission was worth it.
- Jesus died gave his life on the cross for your sin and my sin and the sin of the world. Why? Because the mission is worth it.
- These men had an eager expectation to see Jesus and were willing to endure all manner of hardships to make it happen.

III. These Men Encountered an Obstacle

- Because of the crowd, these men had no way to Jesus; no way to fulfill their mission. They had an obstacle.
- Jewish houses during this time period were built differently than houses today. Houses in Palestine had flat roofs with minimal pitch, just enough so water would run off. There was a general family room, a place where the family slept, a room for storage, and an outer room with a half roof for the animals. More well-off families had an upper room for

gets and large gatherings. The roof was made of beams running from wall to wall with spaces in between the beams packed with twigs and mortar, then marbled over.

- They had no way in to the house, so they decided to take an unconventional approach.
- These men literally pulled the roof from the house to get their friend to Jesus.

IV. These Men Got More Than They Bargained For

- We often settle for the mundane when Jesus wants to give us the miraculous.
- These men thought the external needs were the primary needs in life, but Jesus went even further.
- Jesus shows us that our greatest needs are never external, but always internal.
- It was the man's heart that needed the most attention.
- The Pharisees got mad and to show them he was God and he could forgive sin; he healed the man's body as well as his heart.
- These men wanted their friend to be healed. He got healed body and soul.
- Jesus comes to transform our lives and he is calling us to be transformed into his image so that we, like him, take the gospel to others by any means necessary.
- These men fulfilled the mission they set out to complete. God has given each of us a mission to be fishers of men, to be men and women who make disciples, by first sharing the gospel and then building others up in the gospel.
- **Are you fulfilling the mission God has given you?**