

# What It Takes To Get People To Jesus

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Mark 2:1-12

The healing of the man sick of the palsy (like a stroke— paralyzed — unable to walk) is a picture of an unsaved man paralyzed by sin.

➔ The man was saved because of four men who brought him to Jesus. The same things it took to get this man to Jesus are the same things it takes for us today to people to Jesus.

## I. **There was a CONSCIOUSNESS of where to find Jesus** (vs. 1-2).

- If we are going to get people to Jesus, we must know where to take them.
- Where can Jesus be found?
  - A. In the life of a believer. Can people “see” Christ in you?
  - B. In the Word... Preaching. What was Jesus doing in the house (v. 2). Get people into the Bible and under the sound of gospel preaching (1 Cor. 1:18, 21).

## II. **There was COMPASSION for the man’s sad condition** (v. 3).

- ➔ These four men cared about this man’s condition. They were compassionate and cared enough to get this man to Jesus.
  - ➔ Without compassion, these four men would have never brought this man to Christ.
    - A. Compassion is acting unselfishly on behalf of another. It was a completely selfless act. It was not done for recognition— We don’t even know their names.
    - B. Jude 22 says compassion makes a difference.
      - Condemnation doesn't make a difference.
      - Criticism doesn't make a difference.
      - Complaining doesn't make a difference.
      - Coldness does not make a difference.
- ➔ If we are going to get people to Jesus, we must have compassion for their lost condition. They are hell-bound.

## III. **There was COOPERATION to work together** (v. 4).

- They worked together toward a common goal.
- A. All four corners needed to be carried if the man could be brought to Jesus.
  - **Winsome William** carried one corner of the bed.
  - **Prayerful Patrick** carried one corner of the bed.
  - **Sacrificial Sam** carried one corner of the bed.
  - **Determination Dan** carried one corner of the bed.
- B. It takes a lot of cooperation to win people to Christ.
  - The one who passes out tracts
  - The one who writes a letter.
  - The one who bakes a pie or brownies.
  - The one who visits in the home.
  - The one who makes a phone call.
  - The one who invites a lost neighbor to church.
  - The one who gives and prays.
  - The one who waves a sign.
  - The one who preaches the Word.
- C. We are laborers TOGETHER with God. One sows... one waters... one harvests... *“but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour”* (1 Cor. 3:5-9)

#### IV. There was **COMMITMENT to not quit in the face difficulties** (v. 4).

- Anytime you try to get someone to Jesus you will face difficulties. The devil will do all he can to hinder or stop you.
- A. They were **committed to the task** of getting this man to Jesus.
- B. They could have given up but **determination drove them on**. They were **not going to be denied**.
- C. They were not going to fail. Why? Because **“Charity never faileth”** (1 Cor. 13:8). Love will find a way to get it done!
- May we be as committed to getting people to Jesus as these men were. Determined not to quit or give up on a soul.

**V. There was CREATIVITY to overcome obstacles** (v. 4).

- ➡ You've got to admire these guys in overcoming the obstacles.
  - A. The CARRYING of the man. HOW FAR? The distance didn't matter to them.
    - ➡ To what lengths will you go to get people to Jesus?
  - B. The CROWD at the house.
  - C. The COVERING on the house (the roof). How did they get on top of the roof? Where did they get the rope to let the litter down? The Average Baptist would have formed a committee to check on who is going to "Pay For The Roof."
  - D. The CRITICISM from the on-lookers. "What will people think?" They didn't care what people thought. They just wanted to get the man to Jesus!
- ➡ Obstacles/Barriers that stand between the lost and Christ today: Barrier of religion... intellectualism... world view... hypocrisy... false doctrine... indifference... social barriers... cultural... ethnic... language... generational.
- ➡ What creative ways can you think of to overcome "barriers" that stand in the way of people getting people to Jesus (cf. 1 Cor. 9:22)?

**V. There was CONFIDENCE that believed Jesus was the answer to this man's need** (v. 5).

- ➡ These men had faith if they could get the man to Jesus, Jesus would heal him. Otherwise, why bother?
  - A. One of the problems with church members is they have lost the spirit of expectation.
    - Pastor's don't expect people to respond to their preaching...
    - S.S. teachers don't expect their lessons to make a difference in their students.
    - People on G.R.O.W. teams don't expect anyone to read or accept their their letters of invitation...
    - Sign wavers they don't expect people to come to church...

- People stop passing out tracts because they don't expect them to get read...
- Christians fail to pray because to don't expect God to answer their prayers.

B. These men had faith and it was obvious. It could be seen. And Jesus answered it (Heb. 11:6).

**SUMMATION:** It took **faith and works** to get this man to Jesus (James 2:20). They did all they could do and trusted Jesus to do what they could not do.

**ILLUS:** Little girl who finally got her unsaved daddy to church. "OK, Jesus, I got my daddy here. Now will you save him?"

Are you doing all you can to get people to Jesus?

Do you have an unsaved friend you want to get to Jesus?

It's going to take a **compassion** that sees their desperate need... **commitment** not to give up until they're saved... **creativity** to overcome obstacles... and a **confidence** that Jesus will save them.