

# In need of a friend

10.22.19

Message 9

Mark Series

Mark 2:1–12 (NIV)

**2** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup> 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? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”** So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> **“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”** <sup>12</sup> 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!”

**1. If you ever see a turtle on a fence post.. You know he didn’t get up there by himself.**

A. Most of us here are not the kind of people who likes to ask for help.

1. Some of us are getting better at allowing others to help us.

2. As we grow spiritually as individuals and closer to people in the church, I believe we will see more of us benefitting from the ministry of others.

B. The ministry of others is important because we weren't made to go through this life all by our self.

1. God declared in the beginning that it was not good for man to be alone.

2. This principle is illustrated daily in families, communities and churches.

3. We all need Jesus and we all need believing brothers and sisters in Christ.

C. This morning's passage is pretty remarkable.

1. Jesus is back in Capernaum and people are coming to be healed and to hear Jesus preach.

2. There are so many people that there isn't any room for anyone else.

3. Let's look at what happened.

## 2. Four friends of a paralyzed man have journeyed to bring him to Jesus.

A. We don't know much about these five guys.

1. We simply know that one of them cannot walk and cannot bring himself to Jesus to be healed.

2. So four of his buddies put him on a mat and carry him to where Jesus is preaching.

3. When they arrive, there isn't any way for them to get close to Jesus.

B. At this point, someone proposes a drastic idea:

1. If we can't go through the door, let's go through the roof.

- a. This guy sounds like he is from the Ozarks (If the hole is not big enough, make it bigger).
- b. This was a drastic idea but the situation was drastic too.
- c. If these friends didn't do something, their friend was going to die.

2. The houses of the day had flat roofs and the material was either straw covered with mud or if it was a wealthy home, it had a tile roof.

- a. These men began to carry their friend up the stairs connected to the roof and then began to take the roof apart.
- b. All this time, do you know what the lame man is doing?
- c. Nothing.
- d. He can't help.
- e. He can't pray.
- f. He isn't even expressing faith.
- g. He is completely at the mercy of others.

C. This is a place that none of us like to be.

- 1. We don't like being dependent on someone else.
- 2. We want to be able to make things happen for ourselves, yet this man couldn't.
- 3. But thankfully, he had 4 friends who were willing to move whatever they could in order to bring him to Jesus.

D. We all need friends like this.

- 1. Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

## 2. Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

### 3.3 characteristics of a friend:

#### A. Friends help when we cannot.

1. We all need people in our lives who are willing to move heaven and Earth for us when we can't ourselves.
2. These 4 men carried their friend when he couldn't walk.
3. They lifted him when he could not stand.
4. They held his ropes when he was at the end of his.
5. Will you be a friend this week that helps when they cannot?

#### B. Friends express faith when we can't.

1. After they lowered the man down, it says that Jesus saw their faith.
  - a. There is plural.
  - b. This means Jesus saw the faith of the friends not the faith of the lame man.
2. We all need people in our lives who will believe when we can't.
  - a. We need friends who will pray when we can't.
  - b. We need friends who will touch heaven for us when we can't.
3. Look around you and you may see a family or friend who needs someone to believe in them and for them.
  - a. Be a friend.
  - b. We don't need more negative people in our lives, we need more uplifting friends.

c. Be the friend who brings the faith.

C. Friends know who the “ultimate friend” is.

**Luke 5:17–20 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “**Friend, your sins are forgiven.**”

1. Jesus is the ultimate friend.

a. Luke quotes Jesus as looking at the lame man and calling him a friend.

b. Jesus didn’t call him by his sickness, or by his disability but by his relationship: Friend.

2. The 4 friends could not heal this man.

a. They couldn’t make him walk.

b. They couldn’t forgive his sins.

c. So they took him to the ONE who could.

d. Jesus is the ultimate friend.

**4. Notice how Jesus shows friendship:**

A. First thing Jesus did was forgave the man’s sins.

1. No one was prepared for this.

2. They were prepared for a healing but no one expected Jesus to forgive him of his sins.

3. Yet Jesus did.

4. If we don't give people the great opportunity of knowing Jesus, are we really friends?

5. In a world that is full of loneliness, heartbreak, and desperation, we need to be bold and bring our friends to the Best Friend, Jesus.

B. The second thing Jesus did was defend.

1. The religious people in the crowd couldn't believe that Jesus had the power to forgive sins.

a. No one but God could do that.

b. So in this statement, Jesus claimed to be God.

2. Many of us know that people like to kick us when we are down.

a. When we are at our lowest, many will take advantage of us.

b. When we are the most broken, people will come to get whatever piece they can.

c. But this isn't how Jesus or his people are to operate.

3. Jesus knew what the people were thinking.

a. They weren't happy this man's sins had been forgiven.

b. They were upset that Jesus would even dare to forgive a man's sins.

c. But Jesus is a friend of sinners, and he not only forgives, he defends us before our accusers as well.

4. The name Satan means accuser.

a. That is what he does to us.

b. He accuses us before God of our sins.

c. But Jesus is our friend and advocate who defends us.

d. And since Jesus is our model, we need to defend and protect our friends as well.

C. Lastly, the friend Jesus heals.

1. Jesus healed this man and set him free.
2. He was carried into the room on a beggar's mat.
  - a. He left on his own feet,
  - b. Carrying his mat with him.
3. When Jesus got done with this man, he left a completely healed and forgiven man.
  - a. That is what our friend, Jesus, does.
  - b. He heals and he forgives.

**Closing: Maybe this morning, you need a friend.**

A. Your tired, your broken, your lonely.

1. You wonder if you will ever be whole again.
2. This morning, I want you to know that Jesus is your friend.
3. You can bring all of your junk, your worries, your dreams, and fears to him and we won't:
  - a. Gossip about you.
  - b. He won't mock you.
  - c. He won't reject you.
  - d. He loves you and wants to walk alongside you through this.

B. Maybe you are in need of a earthly friend.

1. You don't have to walk through this world alone.
2. Part of the joys of being the church is that God has put people in your life who can minister to you through friendship.

- a. If you need a friend, ask.
- b. Join a small-group.
- c. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to someone.
- d. Don't live life alone.

C. Here in just a few moments, we are going to receive communion.

1. This is a sign and symbol our need for a savior.
2. All of us needed a friend, a healer, and a forgiver.
3. Communion is a sign of our need and a sign of God's provision.