

HOW TO BE A LIFESAVER

He Gets Us: Part 3

March 12, 2023

Pastor Brian

Matthew 9:1-8 / *Mark 2:1-12* / Luke 5:17-26

LIFESUCKERS VERSUS LIFESAVERS

1. **LIFESUCKERS** SEE NEEDS AS IRRITATIONS.
LIFESAVERS SEE NEEDS AS INVITATIONS.

“By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.” (Luke 10:31–32, NLT)

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.” (Luke 10:33, NLT)

“If someone...sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?” (1 John 3:17, NLT)

2. **LIFESUCKERS** BLOCK PEOPLE FROM JESUS.
LIFESAVERS BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS.

“One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) ...” (Luke 5:17, NLT)

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces...” (Matthew 23:13, NLT)

“Four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.” (Mark 2:3, NLT)

“They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.” (Mark 2:4, NLT)

“Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.” (Philippians 2:2, NLT)

“...I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV)

3. **LIFESUCKERS** FOCUS ON A PERSON'S **PAST**.
LIFESAVERS FOCUS ON A PERSON'S **POTENTIAL**.

*"But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, **Why does he eat with such scum?**" (Mark 2:16, NLT)*

*"When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. **I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.**" (Mark 2:17, NLT)*

*"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. **A new life has begun!**" (2 Corinthians 5:17, The Living Bible)*

4. **LIFESUCKERS** CARE ABOUT **RULES**.
LIFESAVERS CARE ABOUT **RELATIONSHIPS**.

***Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5, NLT)*

*"But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "What is he saying? This is **blasphemy!** Only God can forgive sins!" (Mark 2:6–7, NLT)*

"Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk?'" (Mark 2:8–9, NLT)

God forgives...

- **FREELY**.
"...all are justified by the free gift of his grace through being set free in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:24, NJB)
- **INSTANTLY**.
"...you are a God of forgiveness, always ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of love and mercy..." (Nehemiah 9:17, The Living Bible)
- **COMPLETELY**.
"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:25, NIV)
- **REPEATEDLY**.
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NIV)

“So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!”” (Mark 2:10–12, NLT)

5. **LIFESUCKERS WON'T STEP UP.**
LIFESAVERS WON'T SHUT UP!

“the man...went home praising God.” (Luke 5:25, NLT)

“Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you...” (Psalm 107:2, NLT)

ACTION STEPS

Serve at Peace 1-Day April 2nd.

Invite 4 People to Easter – 1 per week!