



W H O ' S I N Y O U R
C O R N E R

A black and white photograph of a boxer and a referee in a boxing ring. The boxer is shirtless and has his arms raised in a victory pose. The referee is wearing a dark shirt and is also raising the boxer's arm. The background is dark, and the ring ropes are visible in the foreground.

S E R M O N G U I D E

Who's In Your Corner?

Luke 5:18-25

INTRODUCTION

In today's key passage, Jesus tells the formerly paralyzed man that he got better because of the people in his corner. Their faith, their commitment, and their determination was the anecdote that enabled him to come out of his state of immobilization. This is confirmation that in the same way that your relationships can hurt you, they also have the power to heal you. In the same way that people can bring you down, people can bring you up. This man got a breakthrough not because of anything he does for himself, but because of what others on his team, in his corner, and in his circle do for him. And the truth is, we all need that. We all need a village of caring, compassionate, committed, consistent, and courageous people who are aware of what's going on with us, are willing to assist us and don't mind going the extra mile.

KEY POINTS

1. You Need People In Your Corner Who Know Where To Find Jesus

What stands out to me as this text unfolds is that when the man needs help, his friends know where to take him. There were a range of places they could have taken him, and a host of people they could have taken him to. There were streams of water alleged to bring healing, there were soothsayers who promised healing for a fee, and there were idols and gods of healing that people worshipped. But this circle of friends brought him to Jesus. And what I like is that they didn't have to ask where Jesus was; they didn't have to figure out where to find Him. They knew for themselves where He was. And the same needs to be true of the people we have in our corner. It is absolutely imperative that the closest people to us are consistently pointing us to Christ because they themselves trust the Lord and have a personal relationship with Him.

2. You Need People In Your Corner Who Are All On The Same Page

It is very apparent that the people in the paralytic's corner were all in agreement about what he needed and where he needed to go. There is no sense that there was division among them about the goal, the approach, the method, and the destination. They were all on one accord about what was best for their friend.

NOTES

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When you are trying to get your life together after a season of challenge and duress, you need those in your corner to be of one heart, one mind, and one mission. They may have different thoughts about the tactics, the timing, and the right technique, and that's okay. But you need the people in your corner unified and focused on the mission, and that's for you to get healed and to get up out of this situation. The worst thing that can happen when you're going into battle is for your advisors to be divided about the mission. And that can happen when some in your circle are encouraging you to stay down while others telling you to get up.

3. You Need People In Your Corner Who Don't Judge You Because Of Your Past

Keep in mind that the paralyzed man wasn't always paralyzed. There was a time when he was able to walk and was on his feet. There was a time when he and all his friends could do things together; go to ball games together, hang out socially together, and perhaps even do business together. But even now that he is unable to do all the things he once did, and he has fallen on hard times, his friends still stick by him. They don't allow his circumstances to influence their relationship, and the same should be true of the people in your corner.

Regardless of what's happened in your past, the people in your corner should be faithful to you no matter what. We've all made mistakes. We've all had dark times. We've all walked through tough seasons. None of us are perfect. Therefore it's important that the people close to us realize that and don't allow the faithfulness of their friendship to depend on any past circumstances.

4. You Need People In Your Corner Who Will Sacrifice For You

What stands out to me is that even though the friends knew where Jesus was staying, they didn't just give him the address, they took the time out of their busy schedules and took him themselves. And then, when the crowd blocked access to Jesus, they didn't give up and say, "Let's come back tomorrow." Instead, they keep looking for another way. And then when they took him up to the roof, they didn't let the roof, which was made of clay, stand in their way. When they get to the house and discover it to be filled beyond capacity, that doesn't deter them. They go above and beyond as they climb the roof while carrying him, make a hole in the roof, and let him down into the home where Jesus was. What a beautiful picture of what it looks like to sacrifice for a friend.

No Limits with Pastor Delman

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Who's in your corner right now? Are you happy with who's there or are you realizing you need a change regarding who you're allowing to be in your corner?
2. When was a time that the people in your corner exhibited one of the traits discussed in this message? How did their actions bless you and help you?
3. When was a time you got to help or bless someone else by being in their corner? What did you learn from that circumstance?
