

Mothers Day 2022

Luke 5:17-26

New International Version

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

17 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. **18** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

19 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.

20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **23** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **24** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Pray

God wants to do remarkable things in our lives, but sometimes we need mat carriers.

People who will take us to Jesus when we cant take ourselves.

In other words we need each other, the body of Christ. Because when we find ourselves in a hard situation, just like Jen did, it's those of us who know Jesus that can carry the hurting to Him.

This passage makes me giggle a little. Can you imagine the shock of the Pharisees and teachers. When Jesus literally reads their minds.

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

Don't you know that it startled them...Then Jesus went on to say

23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?

24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.

There are so many ways I could go with this passage but what I want to talk to you today is about the mat carries.

These were probably friends of the paralyzed man, friends that cared about him and wanted to help. So much so that they carried him to go see Jesus. No telling how long or how far they had to carry him. Who knows how heavy he was and tired they were once they got there. only to find the crowd too large to get to Jesus. And they had to get creative, and tear up a roof to lower the mat man to Jesus.

Maybe Jesus was someone they had just heard about, maybe one of them had seen Jesus heal someone before. Maybe this Jesus was there last hope. But either way they knew that their friend (the mat man) needed to get to Jesus.

That is what the body of Christ is. We are mat carriers for one another. There are times in all of our lives that we will need to be mat carriers and times when we ourselves will need to be carried. But either way there is one place, one place that provides these kind of relationships and that is the church.

I find it interesting that in modern christianity there is the idea floating around that church is not necessary to the believers walk. That staying home watching church online or just doing your own thing is all you need. Friends I'm here to tell you right now that is a lie from satan himself.

If we don't need each other than why did Jesus model doing life with the disciples? He could have come walked alone and just been God. But instead He chose to model for us what he wanted in our lives.

Jesus knew the power of unity what two or three could do...not alone, but together. And I believe satan knew too and went to work to destroy it.

The other day Pastor Steve shared a quote from Jimmy Evans and it was this... Satan didn't show up in the garden until there was two.

The bible talks about this...Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9
Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:

10
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

and has no one to help them up.

11

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

12

Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

I think these verses are often used in reference to marriage and that is true but this can also apply to the body of Christ as well. We need each other..

We need those people in our lives that are willing to tell us the truth. Willing to go the extra mile to make sure we make it to Jesus. And we in turn need to be that for others.

Matthew 18:19-20

19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

The truth is we can have good intentions to gather in Jesus name at home but it’s just not the same. Right?!

When we are at home. We are not solely focused on the Lord. We are easily distracted. But when you take the time to prioritize coming to church to meet with Jesus it different!

You know why its different we are practicing speaking and meditating..hang with me here let me read you a couple of verses of scripture.

Psalm 1

1

Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,

2

but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who **meditates** on his law day and night.

3

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.

Joshua 1:8 NIV

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

We often use the word meditate to mean being somber, or quietly thinking on something.

But, what the Hebrew word mediate actually means is to murmur, to mutter, roar, speak, study, utter

Not just to think on but to speak.

Christianity is an action... its not an observance. Its something we must physically put into practice...Its something that we must speak and roar!

There is so much to us doing church together...we come together to declare who He is. And we encourage one another with the spoken word.

Theres power.... if two or more agree it will be done....That if two or more gather Jesus is with us!

Why wouldn't the enemy want to mess that up

It interesting to me how obvious the enemy is and we don't even see it. I bet if we were to take a pole right now there wouldn't be one person in this room that hasn't experienced the Wednesday/Sunday phenomenon. You know that thing Jen was talking about where everything happens to make it so hard to get to church.

When the enemy starts working on you the night before...Trying to manipulate your feelings. Trying to make you not feel like going.

And what about the weather? Its crazy how it will be beautiful all week but Wednesday or Sunday rolls around and its blizzard or hail storm just like this Wednesday.

There is power In the body of Christ when we come together. I believe we make the enemy tremble when we come to together.

Together not only is there power but we multiply our efforts. One will put 1000 to flight; two will put 10,000 to flight, when God is on our side. Deuteronomy 32:30

No man is an island, just living their lives by themselves.

Selfishness cannot be an option.

It is time to allow the Holy Spirit to have free rein in our lives.

We must lift up our eyes and see the hurting, the needy (the mat dwellers) and reach out and help.

We can't serve and help these mat dwellers from our sofa.

We can't have community of faith from the sofa.

You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together from a sofa.

Christians aren't consumers, we are contributors!

We don't watch we engage, we give, we sacrifice, we encourage. We pray while laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

This is the heart of Jesus – to leave the 99 to go after the one.

Matthew 18:12-14

12 “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? **13** And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. **14** In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

Jesus didn't let the sheep be alone. He knew the dangers of being alone. How much easier it is to get picked off alone. How the right path is not so clear when you're not with the herd. How one small misstep can put you in a dangerous situation. He went after it to bring it back into the fold...into the flock. Why because He knew there was power and protection in the flock. Why are we any different?

It's a whole lot easier to get picked off when you are alone. It's a whole lot easier to start listening to the wrong voice when you are alone. Even our own thoughts are loud when we are alone.

Think about this...what is one of the first things to go when you are just not quit where you need to be with God. Church.... you just don't really want go. You slowly stop coming and that never draws you closer to God... to pushes you further from Him.

Show me a person that has quit coming to church and i'll show you a defeated christian. A christian that the enemy is trying to destroy.

I can honestly say I have never seen anyone stop coming to church and then experience a personal revival.

No instead the enemy starts whispering lies..

Has anyone ever heard the enemy whisper to you. You cant go to church, your a hypocrite.

Have you ever read the meme that "not going to the gym because of the fat people there, is like not going to church because of the hypocrites."

Thats what the church is for... its for training us up in our faith. Teaching us to meditate in our faith. We are all in different places in our faith and we are to encourage one another in our faith. To grow... to grow up.

The enemy wants to isolate and pick us off. Does anyone remember what Pastor Josh said last week about John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Pastor Josh told us last week the enemy has come to steal you, kill you and to destroy you. Thats his end goal.

Life will happen, hard things will happen. In this world we will have troubles.

And if we have taken the bait, if we have believed the lie that we can do this christianity thing on our own. Then when hard things happen and we get knocked onto a mat there will be no one around to help carry us to Jesus. And thats exactly what the enemy wants.

No one around to help us see the truth, to speak truth into our lives.

No one to fight for you to get into his presence when you can't even get up off your mat.

Do you remember the quote

“What one generation allows the next enjoys.” In others words, Parents, moms, if we don't fight for truth, fight to make church and God a priority. Then the next generation will be completely absentee from the church. We will look no different than Europe, a post christian generation, if we don't change something now.

Satan wants the church to be nonexistent. And so he hasn't used the world to come and attack us. At least at this point we in the American church we haven't experienced real persecution. We aren't fearful for our lives when coming to church.

No instead satan has started a rumor, whispers a thought (You don't have to go to church to be a christian....You don't need to go to church its just a bunch of hypocrites....You can do this without the church..... You know more than most those people there anyways....I'm just to tired....to busy.... Oh but sports are just for a few months... staying home with family is more important, they need me...) and somehow we took the bait, believed a lie and it took hold and so we the church will be our own undoing unless we reverse the lie.

Just a side note: As far as not coming to church because of hypocrites.. The disciples didn't bail on Jesus because of Judas. No they kept their eyes on the Lord.

And to the thought you don't have to go to church to be christian. Tony Evans said this "True our salvation is through faith in Christ alone. But you don't have to go home to married either, but stay away long enough and your relationship will be affected."

And one more thought, statistically your child has a 0.0296% of becoming a professional athlete. But there is a 100% chance that your child will stand before the Lord.

Truth is, church was Jesus idea he told Peter in Matt 16:18 On this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail. Jesus said that because He understood hell would come against the church.

The gates of hell don't come against things that are not important.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, [not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing](#), but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Habit is defined as
a settled or regular tendency or practice

But encouraging each other all the more as you see the day approaching... but what I observe is all the more distractions, all the more things pulling to keep us away.

But the enemy tactics are often times slow and subtle. And I believe he has been slowly waging war on the church for a long time.

Does anyone remember when nothing was open on Sunday? I remember when the laws changed and suddenly people were working on Sunday as if it were a Monday. Hmmm a societal coincidence? Or a strategy of the enemy.

And that did we witness firsthand when covid hit? None of us knew what to expect.. but isolation was the prescription. We stayed in our homes, didn't go out unless it was necessary. Statistically the church as a whole has lost on average 20%. And though we are seeing some return we have seen some not return. Once again a coincidence or strategy of the enemy?

There is literally a loneliness epidemic in our nation.

In 2019, the Health Resources and Services Administration described a "loneliness epidemic" as an increasing societal health concern. A Cigna survey revealed nearly half of Americans always or most of the time feel alone (46%) or left out (47%). Close to 50 percent of the respondents stated loneliness plagued their daily lives, however, these numbers were reported prior to social isolation caused by COVID-19. The enemy knows what he is doing.

Today is mothers day, as a mom, the most important thing I can do is offer my relationship with the Lord to those around me, and to my children. To show them what it looks like to walk in true relationship. with Jesus, not religion. To model carrying people to Jesus. And to put my children in a place where they can encounter Jesus for themselves. Where they can learn to serve, worship and to meditate (roar) with other believers.

We are all born on a mat its called our sin nature. We all have to come to Jesus to be forgiven. And the enemy does his best to add super glue, through hurts and trials of life, to keep you stuck to your mat

(stuck in your sin). As moms it's our job to be the best mat carriers that we can be for our children.

Can we agree to fight for our kids. To not give them an option as long as there in our homes.

I can't choose Jesus for my kids, but I can tell you right now that I will do everything to carry my kids mats to Jesus.

I can guarantee you this...the world will do everything it can to keep our kids on a mat. The world will not play fair. The world will fight hard for our kids. But I will fight... with everything in me to get my kids to Jesus.

This world is temporary and we should enjoy it. But we can't get too caught up in this world. This life is simply eternity training. We are all going to die one day. And the only thing that will matter is our relationship with Jesus.

