

A Doorway

Part 2

Last week in John 4, we read about the “Woman at the Well” and how when she understood who it was that spoke to her at the well she went back to Sychar and told everyone about Jesus.

The Woman at the Well went from being rejected by others to the open door that paved the way for Jesus to go there for two days of ministry.

She was a key part of what happened in Samaria and was instrumental in people putting their faith in Jesus.

The idea is that Scripture tells us that God uses individuals to be a doorway in a sense. Every person is an opportunity for the Grace of God to move and touch the lives of others.

Luke 5 NIV

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.

- There is something about **Vs. 17** that stirs my spirit, “And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.”

- The environment of Revival is like this. In Revival the power of God is present to heal, deliver and touch people. When the Glory of God is revealed the hearts people become hungry for God like never before.
- True Revival can be described like this: “Revival is when God is becomes so tired of being falsely represented, that he decides to show up and represent himself.”

Vs. 18,19

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.

- Scripture tells us in Mark 2 there were four friends who carried the paralyzed man on a mat.
- Can I tell you, in this case, those four friends were the prescription that God used as a doorway for this man to encounter God.
- If we were to unpack the kind of friends that God Prescribes, these four men would be used as an example.
- If God has given you Godly friends like this man, you are blessed...
- If you want Godly friends like this, let me encourage you to be a Godly friend like this...

Godly friends:

1. Desire to bring their friends to Jesus...
2. They will do whatever it takes to remove obstacles and get you to Jesus...
3. Don't give up when it seemed impossible...
4. They have faith in God... Vs. 20

Charles Spurgeon spoke of the kind of men who would bring a friend to Jesus in such a way: *“They need be strong, for the burden is heavy; they need be resolute, for the work will try their faith; they need be prayerful, for otherwise they labor in vain; they must be believing, or they will be utterly useless.”*

Imagine the conversation that possibly took place among these 5 guys before they carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus...

- Bro have you hear about Jesus
- Yeah man It's crazy some people are saying He's the Messiah
- I believe it; nobody could do what He does if He wasn't
- Dude do you think he could actually heal our friend?
- Bro from what I hear with Jesus anything is possible
- What would it take for us to get our friend to Jesus
- Man I'm down to do whatever it takes...

Vs. 20

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Notice what Jesus says here, “When Jesus saw their faith”

- Jesus didn't just respond to the faith of the paralyzed man...
- Jesus responded to the faith of this group of men...
- **Never-the-less:** Can you imagine how the friends on the roof might have felt when they heard Jesus say “your sins are forgiven.”
- They went to a lot of trouble to see their friend healed, and Jesus says “your sins are forgiven”.
- We might imagine them shouting, “No, he's paralyzed! We want him to walk”

- This reminds us that Jesus knows our obvious need (The desire of our heart) and he is also aware of our greatest need. What good would it be if the man had two whole legs but wasn't right with God. If his body was unburdened with sickness but his soul remained burdened with sin.

Psalm 32 NIV

1

Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

2

Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Mark 8:36 NKJV

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

“Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.” (Wiersbe)

Vs. 21-23

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’?”

- The Pharisees and the teachers of the law thought correctly when they asked “Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
- They are even correct in examining this new teacher.
- Their error was in refusing to see that Jesus is the Son of God, who has the authority to forgive sins.
- Jesus answers their question with another question. Which is easier: to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’?
- Theoretically its easier to say your sins are forgiven. It’s possible to say your sins are forgiven and wonder if they really are. But there is no wondering if he says take up your mat and walk and the paralyzed man walks.

Vs. 24-25

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.

- Jesus the Son of God, the one who created the heavens and earth points his attention to this paralyzed man and says, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”
- This is the one the Apostle Paul wrote about in Colossians 1 when he said:

Colossians 1

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or

authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- That day this one man found himself on the receiving end of the Love and Favor of God. All the Authority and Power of God was directed right to him and I bet you he never forgot it. I bet every doubt he ever had about God was crushed and he was changed forever in that moment.

That Old Mat that represented life before Christ, was now a reminder of what God can do...

I wonder what he did with that old mat?

I wonder if he took it back into his house maybe the living room?

Maybe he stuck it in the corner?

Maybe he hung it on the wall as a reminder?

I bet he never laid on that thing again...

Why? Because when Jesus said with all the authority of Heaven, "Get up, take your mat and go home" he never wanted to go back to that old mat again.

The Old Mat was a symbol of the Past...

That Old Mat propped up in the corner was symbol of what God can do...

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Vs. 26

Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Mark 2:12

This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Closing:

The Paralyzed man experienced Jesus because of four friends who with Godly determination became a doorway to get him to Jesus...

This is what it means to be a Missionary and bring people to Jesus

A Godly Friend is a Doorway for God and Blessing from God...

Do you have Godly friends like this?

Has God given you an opportunity to be a Godly friend?

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