

REAL FRIENDS

Mark 2:1-12

1. Real friends are caring

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. (1-2)

2. Real friends are unselfish

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd... (3-4)

3. Real friends are persistent

And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. (4)

4. Real friends are giving

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (5)

5. Real friends are honest

Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" (6-9)

6. Real friends are humble

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" (10-12)