

February 20th – Bringing My Friends to Jesus

*“Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’”*

*(Mark 2:3-5)*

After Jesus initiated His public ministry, He made the seaside city of Capernaum sort of a “ministry headquarters” over the course of the next years. On one occasion, He came to Capernaum and the Scripture says “it was heard that He was in the house” (Mark 2:1). I wonder if people get the impression that “Jesus is in the house” when they visit our homes, our churches, our jobs, etc. When Jesus is in the house, everything changes. Oh the difference our Savior makes!

When word spread that Jesus was near, everyone flooded the home to capacity - standing room only. That was bad news for a paralytic whose four friends intended to bring him to Jesus. When they arrived at the home where Jesus was staying, there was no way into the home through the door, the windows, etc. The four men were so desperate to get their friend to Christ that they took urgent action – they broke through the roof and lowered him down.

Jesus was impressed by their faith in action. “When Jesus saw *their* faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’” If we’re not careful we can read right over that. Jesus didn’t just honor the paralytic’s faith – He honored the faith of his four friends as well! Because of their faith, Jesus healed the man by His miracle-working power. Think about it – some of our friends are sin sick and in desperate need of Jesus. Will we do all we can to bring our friends to Christ?