



Emergency Contact: Who Needs Whom? Mark 2:1-12

I remember hearing as a kid that the only things certain in life are death and taxes. The saying comes from Benjamin Franklin in 1789.

Recently, I filled out the paperwork. And somewhere in the middle of all that paperwork was a place for the name and number of a specific person: **Emergency Contact**.

They want to know, “If something happens and you need somebody, who should we call?” Behind that little box marked *Emergency Contact* is an assumption: There are times when you can't do this by yourself. There are times when you need somebody.

In Mark 2, we meet a man who really needed somebody. In fact, he needed four somebodies—four friends to help him do what he could not do. But as we looked closer, we discovered something surprising: he wasn't the only person who needed somebody. So, this morning, I want us to walk through this story asking one simple question: Who needs whom?

Who needed whom? We'll begin with the obvious.

The paralytic needed Jesus.

The paralytic needed friends.

The friends needed Jesus.

The friends needed the paralytic.

If God handed you an Emergency Contact form this morning, whose name would you write down? Who are the people who would carry you? But there's another question: Whose Emergency Contact are you? Who knows that when they can't carry themselves, you'll pick up a corner? That you'll pray, reach out, or simply show up?

Because we all need Jesus, and we all need one another!