

Text: Mark 2:1-12 NLT

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ² Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, ³ four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴ They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."⁶ But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷ "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"⁸ Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? ⁹ Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ So I will prove to you that the Son of Man^[a] has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹¹ "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"¹² And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

1. They Put their Intentions into Action *They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.* Mark 2:4

When Jesus saw their faith... Mark 2:5

In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 GNT

The Great Commission is YOUR Commission! *But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.* 1 Peter 3:15 GNT

2. They Didn't Make Any Excuses

- It's never convenient
- It's not always glamorous
- It will always cost you

3. They Looked at the Crippled Man and said, "Your Story is Our Story"

Without God I can't, Without Me God Won't ~ St Augustine

Three Takeaways:

1. What can I do this week to make Jesus take notice of my faith?
2. How can I posture my life to make THEIR story MY story?
3. What's my part? Time, talent, treasure

Love & Obedience Go Together!

"Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me." John 14:21a

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. 1 John 1:6a

