

A Soul-Winning Quartet

Mark 2:1-12

Introduction:

- I. Our Bibles are opened to a critical point in our Lord's ministry. He has just returned from a preaching tour through Galilee. He is in Capernaum and has entered the house of a friend (this was probably Peter's mother-in-law). The Lord is enjoying great popularity. In fact, some say that He was at the peak of His popularity. People have seen His miracles and are assembled to hear Him speak.

Within the crowd are religious rulers who, though suspicious, were not yet His open enemies. As Christ speaks to the crowded house, attention is suddenly focused toward the roof. Four men tear away a portion of the roof and lower a palsied friend right in front of Christ. The Savior's tender heart is touched and He offers full pardon. The palsied man is healed and carries away his bed.

- II. From this incident we discover some impressive points regarding evangelism.

Body:

- I. From this incident we are able to see a good discussion of all involved.
 - A. 🕊️ Look at the portrayal of Christ.
 1. He is presented as the tender, sympathetic, and loving Physician who looks not only to the physical maladies but also to the spiritual!
 2. We see Jesus' desire to speak to and reach *all* groups of people.
 - a. Those caught in sin hear the tender word "Son." He did not disdain this man.
 - b. Those in sin discover that there is nothing more important to Christ than Him helping them escape! He interrupted His teaching to speak to this one man.
 3. 🕊️ We see the supreme authority of Jesus (Mark 2:10).
 4. 🕊️ We discover that Christ will immediately respond to an active faith. Here was faith made perfect by works and Jesus blessed this faith!
 - B. 🕊️ Look at the palsied man.
 1. Here was one in wretched condition. The disease that plagued him is characterized by an extreme loss of power and inability of the muscles to function properly.
 2. 🕊️ This man had faith in Christ. He knew that if he could get to Jesus, he

would find help! His faith was rewarded (Mark 2:12)!

3. He shows us that if we can get to Jesus we also can find the help we need (Isaiah 1:4, 5, 6).
- C. ☞ Look at the Scribes and the multitude.
 1. The Scribes were there to hear Jesus. Though not open critics yet, they were waiting to catch Christ in error.
 2. The Scribes were aware of the palsied man's condition, but they were more interested in the traditions than in the recovery (Matthew 23:13)!
 3. ☞ The multitude stood as a barrier to those trying to get their sick friend to Christ. The crowd was so caught up in the excitement that they failed to recognize the desperate need of the palsied man.
- D. ☞ Look at the friends who brought this man to Jesus.
 1. They were men of FAITH! Many of ordinary faith would have given up when pressed by the crowd. Men of little faith would have never taken the trouble.
 2. ☞ They were men of UNDERSTANDING! To these four they saw the situation as "now or never!" If they waited, their friend might die or Jesus might be gone. They understood the urgency of getting their friend to Jesus.
 3. ☞ They were men of COMPASSION! They felt for this man. They knew he was in a terrible plight. They wanted him to be better.
 4. ☞ They were men who were WILLING!
 - a. Willing to go to expense (i.e. roof repair).
 - b. Willing to do difficult tasks to get their friend what was needed.
 - c. Willing to work around seeming impossible situations. They refused to give up when things appeared impossible.
 - d. Willing to incur displeasure of others. They did not allow fear to hinder them!

II. From this story we discover an awesome lesson.

- A. We discover that often ☞ when evangelism is discussed, members of the Lord's Church will respond in one of two ways.
 1. Respond as Scribes and multitude.
 - a. Some are present to hear about Jesus and sometimes caught up in the excitement of spiritual matters.
 - b. Others admit that the lost need saved and agree to the pitiful condition in which the lost live. They are ALWAYS saying that something NEEDS to be done but they seldom do it!

- c. Many in this group allow the lost to go uncontacted because it is not convenient. Why do they do this?
 2. 🕊️ Let us respond as the four friends.
- B. Consider these four friends and notice what they have to say to members of the Lord's Church regarding our duty to reach the lost and encourage the saved.
1. 🕊️ They tell us that GREAT FAITH is critical. Had these four been less certain of a cure and less eager, they would have taken their friend back home. Faith in Christ's salvation is imperative IF we are to do our job.
 2. 🕊️ They tell us that we must possess VISION. They knew that IF they could get their friend to Jesus, he would be healed!
 3. 🕊️ They tell us that we must possess DETERMINATION. They could have given many reasons for giving up, but they did not. Their faith led them to overcome every difficulty.
 4. 🕊️ They possessed a SENSE OF ACCOUNTABILITY. Their friend was sick, Jesus could heal, and they knew it was THEIR duty to get the two together. They tell us that we must accept personal responsibility for the lost. Do we REALLY believe those outside of Christ are lost?
 5. 🕊️ They tell us that we must WORK IN UNITY if we are to accomplish the task. They were not caught up in petty jealousies, opinions, and hurt feelings. They concentrated on getting the job done (Psalm 133:1)!

Conclusion:

- I. Let us hear the message of this great story. 🕊️ Christ wants you and me to follow the example of these four friends.

There was a certain knight, Gervase Scroop, who received twenty-six wounds in the battle of Edgehill and was left for dead amid heaps of the dead. The next day his son, Adrian, sought to give him a decent burial. When found, the body was not cold and the son began means of restoration. The knight lived for more than ten years, a monument to his son's affection. There are many souls left for dead among the highways of sin who can be revived with affectionate care.
- II. Everyone here today can fit into one of the three groups at that house.
 - A. 🕊️ The Palsied man— hose outside of Christ needing His power.
 - B. 🕊️ The Scribes—Those who are in Christ but are not involved.
 - C. 🕊️ The Friends—Those in Christ and very much involved.