



February 15, 2026

On Purpose

Mark 2:1-12 (ESV)

2 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 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. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 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. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 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? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic — 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 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!”

70% of the people around you every day, would attend a church service and experience God if one of their friends would take a small step and invite them.

Four critical action steps for every one of us.

1. **Attend a service to experience God.**
2. **Invite a friend to share hope.** (Topic today)
3. **Take a next step to follow Jesus.**
4. **Give generously to rescue others.**

Mark 2:1-4

- Jesus was *at home* and people just started coming over. A few guys show up with one of their friends who is paralyzed. They want to get him in front of Jesus...presumably to be healed.
- They realize quickly that the way to Jesus is blocked. They go up on the roof. The ESV says that they *removed the roof*. Literally they “*unroofed*” the roof. And then they lower their paralytic friend, still on his mat, down right in front of Jesus.

The story is this: *Some friends bring another friend to Jesus.*

This guy has amazing friends.

1) These faithful friends Took a Risk.

- Most of us don't like risk and don't take it!
- Real reasons we're afraid to bring our friends to church and to Jesus:
- *We don't want our worlds to collide.*
- *We don't have all the answers.*
- *We don't want to jeopardize the relationship.*
- *It's not relevant to them.*
- *I don't think they would fit in. Have you seen my friends?*
- These guys took the risk for their friend. They literally rip a roof off.
- Someone long ago said that following Jesus is just “*One beggar telling another beggar where the bread is.*” If there's any risk in that...it's worth it...to save, to heal a friend.

2) These faithful friends Believed the Impossible

- The crowd is expectant. But nothing happens: Jesus just looks and says: “*Your sins are forgiven.*”
- **Jesus teaches us:** There is a more important thing in life than being able to walk. The main problem in a person's life is never suffering, it's always sin.

- Here's Jesus saying to this man on his mat, "*Your sins are forgiven*" Jesus is claiming that this man's sin was against *him*. With these words *Jesus is putting himself in God's place and declaring himself to be God*.
- That didn't go well in the room. Some Jewish religious leaders question his claim.
- So Jesus asks, (vs 9) "*Which is easier? To say your sins are forgiven or to say get up and walk?*"
- Which is easier?
- Clearly it's easier to just say, "*bless you...sins are forgiven...and move on*"
- From our perspective: Anybody can say your sins are forgiven, but not just anybody can heal.
- Now think about that from Jesus' POV. Which is easier? To forgive this man of all his sins, think about what it will mean. It will mean that Jesus himself will have to die for them.
- Forgiveness suddenly becomes very difficult and very costly. The easier thing would be to be like any common miracle worker and say "*get up and walk*"
- *Healing will take nothing less than the power of God. And Forgiveness will take nothing less than the sacrifice of God.*
- This whole forgiveness business is a foreshadowing of the sacrifice Jesus will make. Jesus knows this. It will be so much harder to forgive sins than it will be to heal legs.
- By forgiving this man, and healing him too...Jesus sets up the way that you and I can be healed and forgiven. The cross brings about the impossible:
- These friends believed the impossible for their friend: He was healed. Forgiveness, with healing on top.

3) These faithful friends Celebrated Together

- vs 11: "*Take your mat and go...he did...and they were all amazed and glorified God.*" They celebrated. None of them had ever seen anything like this.
- Jesus says... "Don't forget your mat." Why does Jesus insist that he take the mat?
- One Answer: so that he would remember where he had come from. Every one of us has come from a position of debilitating sinfulness. God has brought you from somewhere. We all have a mat.
- When you remember your mat, it helps you to be able to help others that have the same kind of mat.
- Then everyone gets to celebrate together. addiction, money, kids, health....we all have our mats. Don't let your mat in the past shape your future. Let's Jesus' healing shape it.
- Remembering your own mat will help you to be a faithful friend.
- It will help you lead your friends to meet Jesus. And when they do, everybody gets to say: "*We've never seen anything like this!*"

A faithful friend leads others to the feet of Jesus who can heal and save.

- Let's be friends who take risks, believe the impossible, are always celebrating, because God still forgives, still heals, and still saves.
- Pull the roof off for someone else so Jesus can do his work.

Lord, we thank you for your forgiveness today. For the healing that we've found in you. That you saved our lives. We ask that you would remind us today of our sins. Of the things in our life that we've gone through that will now help lead someone else to you. Let us do whatever it takes to get others to your saving grace. In the name of the only one able to forgive, the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.