
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Whatever It Takes

Sunday, February 1, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

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 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!" (Mark 2:1-12, NLT)

What are the main things happening in this story?

1. There is _____ space.

2. This man had _____ friends.

- These men knew their friend needed help
they could not give him – both _____
and _____.
- They _____ him to the only One
who had the _____ to help him – Jesus.

3. _____ - these men were going to do whatever was necessary to get their friend to Jesus.

- These men were _____ on their mission and did not let the _____ in their way prevent them from meeting their goal.

4. Jesus saw these men's faith and _____ it by healing their friend and forgiving him of his sins, thereby _____ his life forever.

5. Who do you need to _____ to church with you to meet Jesus?

6. What steps do we need to take as a church to give more people the _____ to meet Jesus?

First Baptist Dyersburg is in a multi-year cycle of growth. 2025-26 is on track to be our highest attendance year of my tenure as pastor. Our previous highest year of attendance was 2023-24.

- September average worship attendance from 2016-2022: _____
- Sept. 2023 average worship attendance: _____
- Sept. 2024 average worship attendance: _____
- Sept. 2025 average worship attendance: _____
- That is _____ more worshipers on our campus this September than the average of all of our September worshiper metrics from 2016-2022.

Another good indicator of our growth just occurred during MLK Weekend.

- In 2025, we had _____ on campus for worship.
- In 2026, we had _____ on campus for worship.
- That is an increase of _____ people on a holiday weekend. That number does not include the _____ students and adults in Gatlinburg at the Strength to Stand conference.

Another good indicator is the 2nd weekend in January.

- In 2025, we had _____ on campus for worship.
- In 2026, we had _____ on campus for worship.
- That is an increase of _____ people and is the only time we have truly crossed the 500 barrier in January.

Let's begin praying now that the Lord would help us to be willing and able, ready to do "Whatever it Takes" – at just the right time – to help more people come to know Jesus as their Savior through the ministries of First Baptist Dyersburg.