



They Met Jesus... On a Roof (Part 2)

Mark 2:1-12

Did you notice that Mark never mentions another significant person in the story of the four men on the roof? Every time I read the story, I look for this missing man. Let's call him the Nameless Roofer.

Think about it: the paralytic man is running joyfully through the town streets, the crowd goes home, the excitement is over – but there is still a hole in the roof. Who patched the roof?

The logical answer is the four friends, but I doubt they were the ones. Imagine their excitement. The excitable person who goes around tearing holes in roofs is not usually the quiet, reliable personality who stays around to repair the roof. People who are good at tearing holes in roofs are always looking for the next project.

I doubt that the paralytic patched the roof. As soon as he is healed, he jumps up and shouts, "Thank you, Jesus! I'm outta here!" He is excited; he wants to see his family; he wants to tell everyone what has happened. A hole in the roof was the last thing on this man's mind.

I'm certain that none of the critics patched the roof. The critics were there in force, "Who gave Jesus authority to forgive sins? He can't do that!" Critics are good at complaining, but they rarely volunteer to patch the roof. Critics can find many things wrong in the world, but they rarely take action to solve the problems.

So, who patched the roof?

The Nameless Roofer was a man with a servant's spirit. He was probably not at the center of the excitement. He sat in the corner listening to Jesus teach. He was easy to overlook, but he saw a need. People with a servant's spirit are quick to see what needs to be done. Most of us don't even notice the problem, but the servant sees a need and wants to help.

The Nameless Roofer was a man who saw a solution. Patching a roof is not as exciting as tearing the roof off. It was probably a relatively simple task. It is a job that *anyone* could do, but it was the person with a servant's spirit who stepped up to say, "I can do that."

The Nameless Roofer was a man who served out of love. He wasn't looking for attention. No #HumbledByMyGreatness hashtags for this man. He didn't need applause or recognition. Jesus' teaching had transformed his heart – and he showed his love for Jesus by serving others. He patched the roof because he loved Jesus.

The day's teaching ends, and everyone goes home. When everyone is gone, the Nameless Roofer climbs to the roof, starts putting the mud tiles back in place, and quietly patches the roof. No one noticed, but he gave what he could.

It is one thing to tear the roof off; it is fun to be part of the excitement and thrill. But will you serve if Jesus calls you to be the person who patches the roof? Will you serve when the drama is over?

Some plant, some water, some gather the harvest (1 Cor 3). God chooses the assignment; our responsibility is to serve willingly wherever he put us. If God calls us to tear off the roof, we must be willing to serve despite the critics. If God calls us to patch the roof, we must be ready to clean up when all the excitement is over.

Are you willing to do the unnoticed work of patching roofs because of your love for Jesus?