



## **The Mission of Kingdom Citizens** (Mark 2:1-12)

**Bottom Line:** Kingdom citizens are motivated by Christ's love to overcome any obstacle in bringing others to Jesus.

**Has there ever been a time that you've been incredibly excited about trying or starting something new? What fueled that excitement and energy?**

**When you begin a new adventure or new way of life, what is it that keeps you from turning back?**

The church has a God-given mission to change the world for Christ. That's why part of our mission statement at FBCnl is to make disciples who "change the world." We believe that serving is not optional for Christ followers. When it comes to being on mission, there's no turning back. Because Christ has changed us, we are fueled by His compassion to change the world.

**Read Mark 2:1-5.**

In this familiar story, we find friends with such incredible faith that they will stop at nothing to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Their faith, compassion, purpose, and teamwork provide a clear example of how we can be the body of Christ in the world.

**What might Jesus have thought about the friends' efforts to get the paralytic to Him? What can we learn about faith from these men?**

**Why is meeting the physical needs of the hurting and helpless so important for the Christ-follower?**

**What obstacles prevented the paralytic's friends from getting Him to Jesus? How do the obstacles confronting the friends compare and contrast with obstacles that hinder believers today from bringing others to Jesus?**

The paralytic's friends offer us a simple but profound insight about faith that we do well to take seriously. They underscore for us the vital necessity of putting our faith to work in concrete ways. The intersection of our faith in the power of Christ and our concern for people must prompt us to do something tangible that helps them. We should express our faith by taking action that will bring people in our lives to Him. In that way, our faith can be expressed in real-time action.

**Read Mark 2:6-12.**

**Why were the teachers of the law upset when Jesus offered the paralytic man forgiveness? How might we, like the teachers, paralyze ourselves by determining what Jesus can and cannot do? What's the cure for that paralysis?**

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C O M E F O L L O W M E

The teachers of the law understood that Jesus was acting as if He were God when He claimed to forgive the sins of the paralyzed man. Not only did they not believe He was God, they viewed His claims as blasphemies. Jesus was perceiving their thoughts because He knew their intentions. Jesus expressed the heart of their doubt. According to them, it was much easier to just say “your sins are forgiven” than to heal a paralytic since there could be no visible proof of whether sins had been forgiven.

**Why did Jesus heal the man’s paralysis, even though He had already treated the more important problem of his spiritual health? What do we learn about Jesus from this miracle?**

To demonstrate that He had power to do the invisible miracle of forgiving sins, Jesus performed the visible miracle of healing the paralytic. The man got up immediately and went home glorifying God. Without his friends’ help, the paralyzed man wouldn’t have experienced Jesus’ physical healing, but even more tragically, he would’ve missed out on Jesus’ forgiveness of sins and eternity with Him.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.**

As the church, we are called to obey Jesus’ command to go into the world and preach the gospel. But what is the motivation behind our obedience? The apostle Paul dealt with our motivation by taking us back to the reality of Christ’s love. The driving force behind God’s messengers is Christ’s love for the world He came to save. That love now fills our hearts and becomes our motivation for giving of ourselves. We live for a resurrected God and Savior, not for ourselves, and this should press us into action.

**What happens when we are compelled to be on mission by something other than love?**

**In what ways does your life reflect the priorities of ambassadorship for the kingdom of God?**

**Is there someone in your life that the love of Jesus is compelling you to bring to Him? What can you do this week to do what love is leading you to do?**

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**Reflection:** Read these aloud, using your discretion about which questions should be pondered and which questions should be discussed.

**The faith of the paralytic’s friends is what allowed him to be healed. If the paralytic’s friends didn’t believe that Jesus could heal them, they never would have taken him to Jesus. Likewise, if we don’t truly have faith that Jesus is who He said He was and is the only means by which we can have eternal life, then we may be lackadaisical in our evangelism and sharing of Jesus with others. Do you have genuine faith that Jesus is the risen King and Lord of the universe? Do you have genuine faith that He is good and will receive all who repent of their sin and call upon Him? If not, then it’s no wonder you’re not trying to lead others to Him. Will you repent today, trust Jesus’ work on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins, and work towards telling others about Him?**

# mark

C O M E F O L L O W M E

**Often times we can allow even the smallest “obstacle” prevent us from being faithful to Jesus. We skip church because our favorite football team is playing, we ignore reading our Bible’s because we’re too tired, we don’t speak up about our faith in Jesus because it might make us “look weird” to somebody we’d rather impress. All these are obstacles that prevent us from being faithful. But they are rather small obstacles to overcome. What are some of the small obstacles in your life that you need to just simply decide right not that they are no longer going to hinder you from being faithful to Christ?**