

April 17, 2011
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Monday

Mark 2:4 Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, ...

How would you have felt if it had been your roof? That's a pretty good question to ponder when considering your own commitments and priorities. So, just how would you have felt if it had been your roof that was destroyed in the process of these guys bringing their friend to Jesus? They did some pretty extensive damage and it probably was not covered by insurance. Too much damage? Too much trouble? Too much God? Sometimes to accomplish His work, holes are dug, money is expended, and our stuff gets messed up. Put yourself on location. Would you have seen the work of God or the mess of men, if this had been your house?

Tuesday

Mark 2:7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

You know they were right, don't you. Jesus had no right to forgive sins committed against God, unless, unless He was God. Some say that Jesus never really claimed to be God. But they are wrong. He did! It could not have been any clearer to those who heard Him. A man claims to be a quarterback when he puts on pads, a helmet and stands under center on a football field. A woman claims to be a ballerina when she puts on the tutu and takes the stage as a ballet begins. Jesus did not have to say, "Hey, look at me I am God." Instead, He did what only God can do and proved it. This was the ultimate show and tell. "Your sins are forgiven, arise and walk."

Wednesday

Mark 2:3-4 And they *came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof...

What are you willing to do to bring someone to Jesus? How much do you love those who are lost without Him? How long will you strive, with what tenacity are you willing to continue, what barriers will you work to overcome in your love for your friends. These are questions answered clearly by four men who loved deeply, passionately, and strongly. Their attitude was: He cannot walk? We will carry him. Our friend cannot see Him? We will climb over the barriers. We will dig up the roof. We will not give up until we have placed our friend at Jesus' feet.

Thursday

Mark 2:10 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth..."

Here is the 'authority' issue again. Jesus is all about authority. He teaches with authority. He casts out demons with authority. He heals the sick with authority. He forgives sins with authority. One day every knee will bow and tongue confess His authority. In the Lord's Prayer we acknowledge His heavenly authority, praying, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Why then do you struggle with granting Him authority in your life? Doesn't He deserve it? Can't He handle it? What are you waiting for? Tell Him now that you surrender to His authority in your life and situation. Then follow Him, obey Him, live each moment for Him.

Friday

Mark 2:3 And they *came, bringing to Him a [friend]...

These friends did not heal their friend. They brought him to the Healer. These friends did not forgive his sins. They brought him to the Forgiver. These friends did not usher him into heaven, but they did bring him to the "Way". They did not think it enough only to attend the services, see the miracles, listen to the teachings and then to go back and tell their friend about it. NO! They brought their friend. They made the effort. They took the risk. In doing so, you cannot say that they saved their friend, but they did see him saved. There were five people who really shouted that day. One was healed, forgiven -- four others made sure it happened.