

An Incredible Gang

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Intro: The story presents an excellent picture of a united effort to help a man get the help he needed desperately.

1. The Healer: None beyond His ability. (Jer. 32:27; Jas. 1:17; Jn. 1:12)
2. The Hearers: None beyond His activity. (Mt. 11:28; Lk. 11:28)
3. The Heeders: None beyond His affection. (Jn. 14:21; Jas. 1:23-27)

I. The Helpless Cripple (Mk. 2:3)

- A. His condition: Two problems. (I Cor. 7:1) (Flesh & Spirit) outward & inner
 1. Physical disability: Bedfast (outward)
 - a. Palsy: paralutikas. Loosing or relaxing of nerve centers (structure) in one side of body. Paralyze.
 - b. Poor: pitifully. Poverty stricken. No income. (Eccl 7:29; Isa. 1:5-6)
 2. Spiritual disadvantages: Sinful (Mk. 2:5; Ro. 3:10-12) (inward)
- B. His conversion: Two provisions. (Heb. 7:24-25)
 1. Difference physically: Appearance testified to a miracle. (Mk. 2:11-12)
 2. Difference spiritually: Attitude testified to a miracle. (II Cor. 5:17; Mt. 10:32-33) Two choices – Could have remained on his bed: Lie. Could obey and assume a new posture: Stand. Picture yourself as this man.

II. The Hindering Critics (Mk. 2:6-8)

- A. The crowded condition: Two peoples. (Lk. 5:17-26)
 1. The Pharisees: Standard boys: Holier than thou. (Isa. 65:5; Jn. 9:24; Lk. 18:11) Tradition ruled.
 2. The Scribes: Scripture boys: Know more than thou. (Mk 2:6; Col. 2:8) Truth reasoned. (Mk. 2:6-8). Blasphemies – saw only a man, not a need.
 - a. Reasonings about the way to do it: If they knew why was the palsy still bedfast? (Ps. 142:4; 126:5-6; Eccl. 5:1-2)
 - b. Ruled by tradition: if there is a better way to do it why didn't they bring the palsy their way. (Mk. 2:4)
"Those who talk religion by the yard and live it by the inch should be kicked by the foot"
- B. The crucial conflict. (Mk. 2:10)
 1. Their criticism prolonged misery of a man: Palsy. (I Thes. 1:3-4; Ro. 1:16-17)
 2. Their criticism proved powerless to help a man. (Mt. 22:29; I Cor. 1:18)

Illustration: What if the person criticism drove from God was your wife, husband or child, how would you feel? It's someone's loved one.

III. The Helping Crew (Mk. 2:3-4)

- A. The cooperation demanded: Four needed. (Eccl. 9:10; 4:9-12)
 - 1. Common purpose united them: Needy man. (Mk. 2:3)
 - 2. Common priority utilized them: Mighty man. (Mk. 2:10; Lk. 5:17)
- B. The coordination demanded: Faith needed. (Mk. 2:5; Jas. 5:16)
 - 1. They saw the Saviour meet a need. (Mt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17)
 - 2. They saw a sinner's need met. (Mk. 2:12)

Illustration: What if the cripple were you, would you want the help of four people with no united effort?