

ANONYMOUS PART ONE
 COME TO JESUS
 PASTOR GLENN BARTEAU
 MARK 2:4-12
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(Hook)

#95, #96, #97 Have you ever just felt like a number? Just # 99 #98

It's like you're not even a person... just number 99, waiting to be called - #100
 ↳ Ever feel like a number that's been overlooked?

Do you ever feel like the crazy-ness of life has you running around but not really doing much... Ever feel completely worn out from all you do, only to feel like you havn't done much w/ your life.

Story

I was counseling someone recently and I said you've got to lower your stress level in life... He said "It stresses me out to think of lowering my stress – it's one more thing to do that's hard or I don't have to do."

Q:

Do you ever feel like life is unfair...? Like you're just an overlooked number?

The story

There was a man living in Capernaum and he had to be asking these questions. He's completely handicapped. Unable to walk or get around on his own. This is a severe condition in any culture, especially in the agricultural society of the first century.

No doubt his family or friends tell him that a Rabbi is coming to town. Maybe he's like you and me. **I wonder if he was excited or doubtful?**

"I wonder how many times he'd prayed to find strength or control over his limbs. How many times had his family prayed for it." (Not again)

He's got friends

But this guy has got some friends, and whether he wanted to go or not is not the issue. The issue is he has some very special friends. Friends willing to carry him down to where Jesus is.

Q: Can picture his friends saying this Rabbi is different...?

- ✓ He not into social status, or just hanging out w/ Religious elites
- ✓ This Rabbi has infuriated the scribes, Sadducees, and the Romans... he's messing w/ everyone.
- ✓ He sticks up for sinners and tax collectors... and... and we've heard stories of how he's healed people
 - His name Jesus and he's in town...

When they get there a massive crowd has formed so much so that you can't even get up to the house where Jesus is speaking...

But you've got to love this gang of guys...

Mark 2:4

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

These are my kind of guys... they pull out crowbars and claw hammers, and start ripping the roof off the joint.

These are my kind of guys... This is a good excuse to do something that would normally get them into trouble.

Peter's house

Mark says Jesus came home... he didn't grow up in Capernaum... he grew up in Nazareth... however Peter grew up here... and that would be his home away from home in Capernaum. So, more than likely this is the house Peter grew up in. This house belonged to Peter's mom,

Peter's mom

Can't you just see Peter's mom... "Peter, seems like whenever you and your friends come over to the house things get out of hand. A mob has formed out side, and a little while ago it sounded like they were tearing up the roof." "Well, mom, actually they did tear a hole in the roof."

Commando

When I was in High School we played a game in the middle of the night and it was a mixture of capture the flag and a UFC fight... the only rule had was if you used a stick couldn't gore anyone... just swinging hits... "You know... we wanted to keep it safe"

And we played until injured list kept us from forming teams.

One night I was charging up a hill w/ Pat and Darin who were on my team... Pat saw someone and immediately turned around... but he didn't realize Darin & I were right behind him. I jumped out of the way but Darin didn't have time get out of the way. They both go tumbling over and Darin's leg lands on a big flat rock, and Pat's knee lands in on the center of Darin's thigh... followed but the rest of Pat's 220 lb body... He was a lineman on the football team... It was pitch black, but some how I could still see the look of pain and anguish on Darin's face.

Darin can barely talk... he was mostly making incoherent sounds... He sounded more like R2 D2. pat and grabbed a hold of him and carried him off. (I think we thought about using him for bate) This is all for one. And all for one... The other team saw us dragging him up the hill... I could here them saying "It's a trap... It's a trap" But we drug until we were all finished.

When the game is over it was his friends that carried him into the house...

My mom would walk into the living room the next morning to find it littered with High School guys too beat-up from the night before. Because that was the place they needed to be.

What a great group of guys I'm still friends with most of them... in fact several of them or in ministry now. Nothing like having a good friends.

⇒ We all need good friends in our spiritual journeys ... this man has that

These four friends carry their handicapped friend to the right place. They take him to Jesus... and when they can't get in the front door they drag him up on the roof, rip a hole in it and lower him down.

That had to be a great moment.

Vision for Community: This is why you here us talk a lot about Bible Fellowships... That's just our name of small communities of people who build real friendships... friendships that count for something... friendships that carry you when you're in pain, or lost, or just overwhelmed in life... Communities that motivate us toward love and peace... toward knowing and loving God. I need that... you need that... When we are lost, or overwhelmed... When we see the sin or failure in our lives... when we just can't get a handle on the purpose or meaning of our lives... there is a place to go.

Scripture calls us again and again... to turn to Jesus

Psalm 42:11

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? **Put your hope** in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Act on them...

This is said again and again throughout scripture... put your hope in God. You matter to God... We find life In God... These four friends were more than likely men who grew-up in the synagogue... they knew these verses... and now they are going to act on them... This lame man is going to act on them...

Hinge Moment:

This is the moment. They have come to Jesus. That's all they have done... They have acted on this belief... it is an of hoping in God. They belief this man acts on God's behalf. What will happen when they come before Christ?

Jesus does the unexpected. **He turns everything up-side down**, and in doing so – he shows us how we were actual living up-side down and didn't know it.

Mark 2:5

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

"Your sins are forgiven." Q:

Picture his four friends looking down through the hole in the roof. Excuse me, Your sins are forgiven? Yea that's great and all, hee, hee, did you notice he doesn't walk so well... and we ripped a hole in Peter's mom's roof... (we did this once before in High School and got in a lot of trouble, and so we were hoping for a little more)

Q:

~ What were the expectations of everyone? They expected him to heal the guy... This was to be the sha'zam moment.

"Is that all got Jesus... your sins are forgiven."

⇒

Great truth here is... If the story ended right here... and these four guys carried their friend back home. Even if that had happened... this man had received all he really needed.

Here's why this is so important: Jesus is saying

You can be broken, ill, full of sin. You can be weak minded, have the faith of a mustard seed... and still be welcomed to become a son or daughter of God.

↳ Life in God is open to all who will receive it.

⇒ Jesus calls him son... To have your sins forgiven is to become a son or daughter of God... that is what we need most.

What it means to say SON, your sins are forgiven.

We are all broken

- ✓ We do things that violate our conscience... scripture calls that sin.
- ✓ We struggle to be the husband, wife, or parent we should be
- ✓ We struggle at work or school
- ✓ We have weak minded moments where we act rashly, or we fail to act when we should.

Jesus says if that's you... come to me... In me you can experience forgiveness... and the power to live differently... to live as a son or daughter of God... (That's what it means when Jesus looks at this man and says... "SON, your sins are forgiven)

Reli leaders

This is not lost on the religious leaders watching and listening... because... they is only one person who can really claim someone as a son or daughter of God... God!

Mark 2:6-7

But some of the scribes were sitting there, thinking to themselves: "Why does He speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Mark 2:8-9

Right away Jesus understood in His spirit that they were reasoning like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your stretcher, and walk'?"

Tricky questions... to heal someone... that's hard, that's a miracle... but anyone can say your sins are forgiven, and how do you prove it?

Yet, the reality... to make someone a son or daughter... to truly forgive sin... that's harder.

Q:

Deep underlining issue is... Has this man come to the right place... has he put faith, hope, and life in the right place.

Mark 2:11-12

"I tell you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home." Immediately he got up, picked up the stretcher, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

This man walks away and everyone is amazed... but the deepest beauty in this stories... is... This man walks away as a son in God kingdom.

Come to Jesus... that is the message of this story... **come to Jesus.** He has the power to heal, the power to change our lives, our minds, our hearts... Most importantly... He has the power to make us children of God.

Come to Jesus

Invitation

Q: What is the brokenness you carry... what makes you feel like a forgotten number?

Q: What is the sin you carry that loads you up with guilt... makes you feel far from God?

There is a place to come with all abandonment

Song

Come to Jesus