

Prayer meeting in Cuba: Showed up about 30 minutes early...Full...had to make room for us down front!
People in pews, balcony, aisles, windows, foyer, windows, street!
When it was over went outside...Like a clown car!

That is happening in the story we are looking at this morning. Jesus is teaching, healing, crowd has come...packed!

Mark 2:1-12 Page 708
How Do You Love People Without Hope?

We meet them all the time.

- A chronic problem, issue or struggle that has taken over their life
- Reached a place where they have given up, Living in hopelessness, don't believe it will ever change
- Quit trying themselves...slow to respond to anything you say or do, "It doesn't matter" I can't do this anymore
It's not going to change, not worth trying

3 Things You Can Do To Help

1. Be Willing To Do Whatever It Takes To Get Them To Jesus. Vs 1-5

- *Understood their Goal!* (Get him to Jesus) Lk 5: Lowered him "right in front of Jesus"
~Not Church OK start...but not the goal! (Sometimes NEVER come...)
~Not to just be a part of crowd, so that he is in the thick of things
~Not On Roof or outside or close enough to hear!
~We sometimes substitute a conversation about church for a conversation about Jesus
~Church never saved anyone! Only Jesus does that! Church can help...but don't make it about Church: JESUS!
Appl: Here is what is absolutely important to understand: People need to be confronted with message of Jesus
Applic: Healing of another man crippled
Acts 3:16 4:9-12 "Name of Jesus; There is NO OTHER NAME!!!"
- *Did whatever it took!* They didn't let anything get in their way, because they knew ONLY Jesus could help!
~Crowd: Their were so many people they couldn't even get in the door: "Ok, go home, another day"
~Roof: Can't get anywhere close...what do you want us to do, tear the roof off?
We find more excuses to not tell people about Jesus...
~Acceptable behavior: There is no way they did this without SOMEONE objecting!
We cave to social pressure so quickly and so easily
We have to come to the point they did...ONLY Jesus...WHATEVER it takes!
- Willing to go "through" something
They were willing to do whatever it took...carry a man through streets? Tear off roof? Make people mad?
One of the things God has laid on my heart is that some of us at (RTBC) have become a little too complacent
We seem to be comfortable...don't have the same spirit we used to have (Age? Comfort? Tired?)
~First fellowship had ~Strawmen in fellowship hall
~Moon bounce in sanctuary ~Hole in roof
~Tent in parking lot (revival) ~

Applic: Every single one of us have people in our life that need to know Jesus

Goal: Get them to Jesus, not just church
Do whatever it takes
Go through anything in the way

2. Enlist People To Help You Accomplish Your Goal Lk 5:18; Mk 2

- No one did it alone: As a matter of fact, after reading it closely...I think there may have been more than 4!
Lk 5: some men came
Mk 2: some men (carried by 4!) seems like even more! Joint effort!
Who? *Some crowd control Some diggers Some carriers!*
It appears to me that they had an entire effort aimed at getting this guy in front of Jesus!
- We should be just like that! We need to build a team of people that will HELP us share Jesus
~Personal Boldness: Eph 6:19 "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel..."
~Others to help process: 1 Cor 3:16 "the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."
~Someone Clearly explain Gospel: Rom 10:14 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"
~Live Clear testimony: Mt 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."
~Pray Continuously: Col 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message"

Just like the men that brought their friend to Jesus assembled a team to help them, you and I need that kind of team in the life of those WE want to bring to Jesus. It's ok to have church as a PART of what you are doing. Just keep in mind we aren't trying to get people to CHURCH. We are trying to get people to JESUS! Sometimes we need HELP!!!

3. Always Keep Your Ultimate Goal In Mind.

Luke 5:20

It is easy for us to shortchange what we are aiming at when we are praying for someone.

If we aren't careful we will settle for something less than what God wants to do in their life.

"RTBC is committed to leading people to Jesus and encouraging them to grow through worship and service to others."

3 Essential Elements

- Seeing them come to faith and forgiveness: **Lk 5:20**

"Seeing their faith Jesus said, "Friend your sins are forgiven!"

This is the beginning of a faith relationship with Jesus Christ. Leaving the past behind, finding forgiveness and faith.

That is our goal...but is only the beginning of our goal. As wonderful as it is to see someone come to faith,

That is the beginning our journey. WE can't stop there. We want to see fully devoted followers of Jesus: Disciples

- Seeing them begin to "walk" **Luke 20:22-25**

This is the discipleship process. Seeing God bringing hope and healing to the areas of life that are broken.

Our work isn't done when someone comes to Jesus

Illus: It is one thing to "catch" fish....It is quite another to "clean" them! (Fishers of men)

Physical healing

Emotional healing

Relational healing

Financial healing

Spiritual healing

Family healing

When someone comes to faith in Jesus, the process of starting to become like Him is just beginning

That is not the END of our responsibility, it is the BEGINNING of our responsibility!

- Seeing a Transformed life: **Lk 5:26**

"Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God!"

When the world around us takes note of a life that has been transformed, and says, "Look at what God did!"

THEN we have "achieved" our goal!

Mk 2:12 *"We have never seen anything like this!"*

That is our ultimate Goal: Lives that are spiritually and radically transformed to be more like Jesus.

APPLIC: That is what God has laid on my heart for the next year here at RTBC.

I believe that God is calling us to "do whatever it takes to reach people for His Son."

He has seen fit to bless us with this amazing merger...so we now have 3 churches....all together

In addition He has provided incredible resources.

Now it is incumbent upon us to embrace the opportunity and answer the question:

"Father what would you have us do to see the lost brought into relationship with your Son Jesus?"

To that end:

We Pray

We build a team

We keep our eye on the ball

We listen

We aim

We set a Goal

For me: 10% 35 people come to Jesus and follow Him in believer's baptism:

Today I want to challenge you:

Start praying with me

Commit yourself to being one of 35

Ask God to bring people to you that you can tell about Jesus

Join the training class

Build YOUR list...people to pray for

Build YOUR list...people who can go/support/pray for you and them

Be a part of the 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting as we seek God