

Life Group Guide Mark 2:1–5 “If Not You, then Who?”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Jan 28 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Feb 4

Icebreaker Question

When was the last time you had compassion on a stray animal? How did it turn out? Why do you think it was important? Were others able to see your moment of compassion?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. A passion for the lost and hurting demands compassion (v. 3).**
 - a. A person without hope needs compassion (v. 3a).
 - b. Three barriers that prevented this man from getting to Jesus.
 - i. His condition (v. 3).
 - ii. The crowd (vv. 2, 4a).
 - iii. The critics (vv. 6-11).
 - c. The four who demonstrated compassion for this man (v. 3b).
- II. A passion for the lost and hurting produces cooperation (vv. 3-4).**
 - a. The root of cooperation (v. 3).

Two reasons they were able to cooperate:

 - i. They had a common belief; this man needed Jesus.
 - ii. They had a common purpose; take him to Jesus.
 - b. The fruit of cooperation?
 - i. Concern is the fruit of cooperation (v. 3).
 - ii. Unity is the fruit of cooperation (vv. 3-4).
 - iii. Commitment is the fruit of cooperation (v. 4).
- III. A passion for the lost and hurting requires creativity (v. 4).**
 - a. Creative ministry requires determined people.
 - b. Creative ministry requires preparation.
 - c. Creative ministry will not be defeated by obstacles.
- IV. A passion for the lost and hurting produces people of conviction (v. 5).**
 - a. People of conviction believe that Jesus can and will forgive sin.
 - b. People of conviction believe God exposes the selfish heart.

Read Mark 2:1–3: Observation:

- 1. In 2:1, who is the “he” who entered Capernaum? Where did he go?
- 2. In 2:2, what problem happened while he spoke the word to them in the house? What caused the problem?
- 3. In 2:3, of the many people, what did four of them do.

Interpretation:

- 4. Why does the author not include the names of the four men or of the man they carried to Jesus in the house? What then does the author focus on about these men? In other words, what is more important to the story than knowing their names? How should their care for the paralytic relate to how we care for those who do not yet know Jesus?

Application:

- 5. How should Christians show compassion to the hurting, to the ill, and to the weak? Are there people in your neighborhood in need of your compassion?

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Mark 2:4–5

Read Mark 2:4–5: Observation

6. In 2:4, what did the four men who carried the paralytic do when they could not enter the house through the door?
7. In 2:5, whose faith did Jesus see? To whom did Jesus speak? What did Jesus declare?

Interpretation

8. In most translations, 2:5 begins with something like, “Seeing their faith.” How does 2:4 help us see what Jesus saw in 2:5? How is that faith can be seen since it is a concept? What is the connection between faith and actions? Why is it important for faith to be seen?

Application

9. Why is working together sometimes necessary for faith to be seen? Why is this idea important for a local church?
 10. What can be a big obstacle to believers who seek to be creative in their ministry? Must believers always be creative to do things for the Lord? What possible dangers might there be when we try to be creative in ministry?
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Mark 2:6–12

Read Mark 2:6–12: Observation

10. In 2:6–7, what did the scribes question in their hearts? Of what did they accuse Jesus?
11. In 2:8–9, when Jesus realized their thoughts, what did He say to them in front of everyone?
12. In 2:10, what was Jesus letting them know? Whom did He turn to address after stating this purpose?
13. In 2:11, what did Jesus say to the paralytic?
14. In 2:12, what did the (former) paralytic do? What did everyone else do and say?

Interpretation

15. What makes *saying* “your sins are forgiven” easier than *saying* “get up, take your mat, and go home? What is it about doing these things that makes saying one easier than the other? What does Jesus prove about His ability to forgive sins when he is able to make the paralytic man walk? What does this declare about who Jesus is, especially in light of the scribes’ comment, “Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
16. Why was it important for the people there to witness God at work in the healing of this paralytic? How did the work of the four men at the beginning of this story help people to see and hear Jesus declare Himself to be God? How did the thoughts of the scribes in the middle of this story help people to see and hear Jesus declare Himself to be God?

Application

17. How can Christians allow our conviction that “Jesus is Lord” lead us to have a passion for the lost? Why is our love for evangelism connected to our love for God and for people? What convictions are most important for us to prove to be faithful witnesses?
 18. Please memorize 2:10.
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