

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 7, Day 1

Prayer: Holy Spirit, I pray today that I hear from You while reading the Word. I pray that I fully understand all that You would have me to learn from this Re.Mark.Able story from the book of Mark. Help me to also actively respond to whatever You call me to do today.

As you read the verses below, answer these questions and then compare your answers with those that follow.

Who is in the text?
What is happening in the text?
When does the story take place?
Where does the story take place?
Why is this story in the Bible?
How does this story relate to me and my life?

Mark 2:1-12 (NKJV)

2 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. **2** Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. **3** Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. **4** And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

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

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, **11** "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." **12** Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Who: Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, the paralytic, the four friends, scribes, (also referred to as teachers in some translations)

What: Four men do not let anything stop them from getting their paralytic friend to Jesus. Jesus uses this healing opportunity to teach a lesson of forgiveness of sins.

When: This was a time of rising tension in His ministry. This was the first time Jesus healed someone of their sins prior to healing their bodies or minds.

Where: Capernaum

Why: Jesus came with a far greater mission than physical, mental, or emotional healing. He came to bring a message of eternal healing. He came to show a way we can spend eternity with our Lord and Savior; one where we do not have to worry about any earthly ailment or problem.

How: (This answer should be personal to each individual.)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for all of Your many blessings. Thank You for Your Word and all of the wonderful stories that teach me how to lead a remarkable life. Please help me to grow in Your Word and closer to You every day.

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 7, Day 2

Prayer: Lord, help me to stay the course today and to live as You would have me to live. Help me to show Your love and mercy to all I encounter today.

Mark 2:1-3 New International Version (NIV) *A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.*

In verse one we see that Jesus came home. During this time, hospitality was a given. People traveled and often depended on the kindness of strangers and distant family members to take care of them while they were going from place to place. So, it is not surprising that people heard Jesus was in town and just started to show up in the home where He was staying. They came in droves to see Him and to have the opportunity to hear Him speak and heal people. What a stark contrast to today. When we go to worship we want a nice, comfy seat... heaven forbid if we had to stand, lots of space between us and the person next to us, good air conditioning or heat, food, drinks, and the list goes on and on. If any of the above are not just right, we start to get a little anxious. How would we react today if we had any of the challenges they had to deal with in order to listen to the Word?

At this stage in His ministry people were flocking to Jesus in hopes that they would be healed or to watch Him perform miracles for others. Many of them were all about what He could do for them immediately and not about who Jesus really was. Jesus came to preach

the gospel and to tell people about their need for an authentic relationship with God yet most people just wanted to see what He could do. He would often have to leave in the cover of darkness to go to the next area to preach the Word. I wonder if it was hard for Him to leave knowing not all of the people had been healed or heard the Message He delivered. Can you imagine how dedicated Jesus was to staying on course with the ultimate task He was given?

He came to give His life as a ransom so that we may have eternal life with our Father. He was tirelessly working to teach the message of salvation to people who had no idea of the bigger picture.

Jesus had to stay the course just like we do today. He did not get distracted by those who did not understand His purpose, He relied on His Father to guide Him where He needed to be when He needed to be there.

Prayer: Lord, please help me to step out of my daily routine and life to look at the big picture. Show me ways that I can become a better friend and true member of a community of believers.

Re.Mark.Able Study
Week 7, Day 3

Prayer: Lord, help me to learn how to persist in seeking You and in bringing others to You.

Mark 2:3 *Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.*

The paralytic had some great friends. How do you think he found these men? Do you think they were four random guys who happened to offer to take the man to Jesus? No, their actions tell us that they are much more than just five guys seizing an opportunity.

This story is about four men who took action on behalf of a friend. They did not simply pray for the man to be healed; they physically carried him to Jesus. To be clear, there is a time for prayer but there is also a time for action. The four saw a need and did what the situation called for....action! There is a big difference in giving our opinion about a topic or problem and helping a person walk through a problem.

When your friends come to you with a problem do you try and talk to them about it or help them to DO something about it?

They also did not mind getting dirty and physically involved. They dropped everything and carried him to Jesus. The biggest obstacle we have these days is time! We are all so busy living day to day that we forget to look outside our daily obligations to see who needs us. What obstacles keep you from carrying your friends when they need it?

If you are physically capable, when is the last time you offered to do manual labor for a friend? Maybe mowing someone's lawn, cleaning their house, cutting down a tree, cooking them a meal, etc.

They also did not give up when a huge obstacle was placed before them. The crowd was too big for them to get close enough to Jesus so they took further action and went through the roof.

5 *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."*

Jesus used this opportunity of healing to teach a lesson about forgiveness. The unbelievers wanted to see physical signs of Jesus healing the people. Jesus took a different approach with this man. Jesus chose to tell this man his sins were forgiven instead of telling him he was healed. Again, some only came to watch Jesus perform the miracles; they were not hearing the full message He was trying to tell them. He used this chance to get them to pay more attention to who He was instead of the actual miracle being performed.

Do you belong to a community of believers?

DO you study the Word with them on a regular basis?

If not, I encourage you to join a CG. Now is the time to take that step forward and make it happen! Don't wait another day.

Prayer: Lord, please help me to use what I have learned in this remarkable story to be a better friend. Help me to notice when my friends need to be lifted up or even physically carried. Help me to be bold enough to do whatever is needed.

Re.Mark.Able Study

Week 7, Day 4

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please help me to come to You each day with a heart ready to hear You and willing to fully follow wherever You lead me. Help me to also be ever present with the people in my life and ready to help them in whatever way I am called by You.

Mark 2:6 *And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

The scribes came with hardened hearts. They came to listen with a goal of finding fault instead of truth. They did not understand who Jesus was and the power He did in fact have through the Father.

Mark 2:8 *But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"*

Wow! I wonder what the scribes reason in their hearts when Jesus called them out like He did. Did the fact that Jesus could read their hearts help the scribes to understand that Jesus was in fact God or were they too stubborn to realize what He did?

When the Holy Spirit sees your heart and convicts you, do you listen to the lesson He has for you or are you stubborn and resist the call to change your action or thoughts about a situation?

9 *Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic,*

Jesus used a rhetorical question: a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer, to address the scribes' concerns. He did not rebuke them and point out to everyone their error, He used the opportunity to teach them a lesson.

The scribes showed their faith was the opposite of the faith of the four friends.

Let's put ourselves in this story. If you were questioned about your intentions after you sought the Word, the Holy Spirit's direction and the counsel of a fellow believer about a certain situation, would you use the opportunity to help that person to learn the truth for themselves? Or, would you be offended and try and prove your point to them in a fashion that would put them in their place?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to be ever present in Your Word so that I am able to be an example to those who need it. Help me to have a heart that is like Yours' ready to gently guide others and not one ready to prove a point.

Re.Mark.Able Study

Week 7, Day 5

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for this story of true, godly friendship. Thank you for showing me how to live life in a community and the need for meaningful and bold relationships.

Mark 2:11 *"I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."**12** Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*

What an amazing experience this must have been for those who were in attendance that day.

First, they got to see the miracle they came for. They watched as the paralytic picked up his mat and walked away.

Second, Jesus revealed His true identity by showing He was able to forgive the man of his sins.

Lastly, He read the minds of the scribes and used the situation to teach multiple lessons to all who were there and willing to listen.

The three amazing events above were set into motion by four men willing to bear the burden of a friend. They were willing to do whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus. They did whatever it took to get the needs of their friend met. The men were a group of believers who came together for a member of their community. Do you have a group of friends who would do the same for you? If you are a member of a community group, your answer should be an immediate and strong YES! If your answer is no, you need to find a CG so that you can build relationships that will allow you to change your answer to a yes.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a friend like the four men in this story. Help me to seek community with others and to be bold in my pursuit of You and my dedication to bringing others to You in whatever way they need.