

Keys To Salvation & Service

“Case for Christ”, part 6, October 17th, 2021
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

Insights from Mark 2:1-12

Truths To Process and Practice:

1. Jesus was sent to ...

(John 3:16-17, John 19:30)

2. We are sent to ...

(Matthew 9:35-38, Philippians 2:4-8)

3. R_____ and R_____

on God's greatest expression of love ...

is the key to S_____ and S_____.

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our sixth week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Our last week meeting will be the week of Sunday, November 14th (the week before Thanksgiving :).

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to walk with Jesus and apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning at GPC we looked at Mark 2:1-12. We read and reflected on how four guys climbed on top of a roof to lower their friend down, hoping Jesus would heal him.

Speaking of climbing ... what is a pleasant or not so pleasant memory of you climbing or going uphill for a period of time? Why did you do it and was it worth it? Looking ahead, what climb, hike or challenging adventure would you like to take as part of our 'bucket list'?

The house where Jesus was teaching and where the man was lowered into ... was packed with people.

Speaking of 'packed places', what is one of the most crowded places you have ever been in? How long did you stay there? Even though it was crowded ... do you have any positive memories from it?

Because of the crowd inside and outside of the house, the four guys had to resort to extreme measures to get him to Jesus where he can be healed.

Is there a time when you engaged in an extreme ... or "beyond the norm" act to get something you really wanted or needed? Or ... something you did for someone else that was a bit stretching? If so, what did you do and how did it work out?

The four friends we read about last Sunday would have wanted a front row seat to see Jesus. Instead, they went out of their way to bring their paralyzed friend through a roof.

As you think about their sacrifice and service for their friend, who comes to mind that went out of their way to sacrifice or serve you in a time of need?

Looking back to last Sunday:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

A few weeks ago in Mark 1:40-45, we saw how Jesus reached out and touched a leper as he healed him. This past Sunday in Mark 2:1-12 we saw how Jesus didn't mind being interrupted and chose to heal the man that was brought to him.

In both of these ministry moments, we see Jesus' compassion. How do the following passages help us understand the attitudes and actions God wants us to have towards the people sadly, can feel like social outcasts or burdens on a city or community?

Psalms 82:2-4, Proverbs 14:31, Isaiah 10:1-2, Zechariah 7:9-10

Along with having a heart similar to God's heart for the needy, what are some other Biblical truths that are helpful to consider before responding to any and every need that is lowered down in front of us?

From Mark 2, Jesus highlighted the faith and actions of the four men more than the faith or action of the one that was eventually healed. Back then and today, when we are aware of our brokenness and vulnerabilities, it can be difficult to express them to others and give them an opportunity to provide some support.

What do the following verses suggest are some helpful ingredients that can make our small group a safe place for more honest sharing and risking related to the needs we have and the challenges we are facing?

Ephesians 4:25-29, Ephesians 5:3-4, James 1:9-10, Matthew 7:1-5

Which of the behaviors described above is most challenging for you to do or avoid?

Last Sunday, Bob shared that Jesus is more concerned about people's spiritual needs than our physical needs. One area that reveals whether or not we consider spiritual needs more important than physical needs is our prayer life. What we pray for and what we ask others to pray for on our behalf reveals how we would like God to work in and through our lives. Along with our physical needs that God wants us to pray about, He also desires for us to go beyond our circumstances to focus on heart issues

How could Colossians 1:9-14 help us balance our prayer life so we are not just praying for our physical needs?

Looking Back and Ahead:

Looking back on this week's message and study, what is most important for you to remember and ask God for the strength to live in light of?

Praying Together:

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another. Before we wrap up, let's each share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.