

## **Tear the Roof Off!**

1 of 1 | Revealing the True Jesus

### **SLIDE 1 Introduction**

Last week I talked about how you can change who you are by the power of the Holy Spirit and the renewing of your mind. These are two foundational principles in being a Christian and growing in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Having shared those two foundations, I want to dig further into the things that concern us. The truth is, sometimes we are too concerned with changing how others are, than changing who we are. Sometimes we are much more bothered by the actions and words of others, than we are about watching what we say and do.

In fact, I hear a lot about how others effect you. To the point I sometimes feel that the changes you want to see in others are more about your benefit than theirs. You cast many judgments upon them, without knowing their hearts, nor the things that made them who they are today. You cannot determine, except through the discerning of the Holy Spirit, what needs to change in a person's life. Yes, sins are obvious, but the roots are what make them grow in bear fruit.

All that being said, how can we affect the lives of others in a positive way and how can we lead them to Jesus as their Savior and Lord?

### **SLIDE 2 Demonstrating Your Faith for Others**

There is a story in the Bible I think will set up what I want to share today. Again, helping others find Jesus is a large topic for a single message, so you'll have to fill in the blanks, should you choose to do so.

After Jesus had sailed from the country of the Gergesenes to the east, back to the land of Israel to the west of the sea of Galilee, he returned to his own town of Capernaum on the north of that sea.

Chapter 2 of Mark records what happened a few days later in this town. This is the home town of Peter and his fishing trade. Or it could be that Jesus had a home of his own there. Nevertheless, when everyone found out that Jesus had returned home,

they turned out en masse.

Let's pick up this story and note who all was involved and how things progressed:

**SLIDE 3** **Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)** *"<sup>1</sup> A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and **he preached the word to them.**"*

Note that Jesus used every opportunity to "preach the Word." He did not concern himself with current issues or people's personal problems. Why? Because faith comes by hearing the Word. (Romans 10:17) Also, God chose the preaching of the Word to save people who believe it. (1st Corinthians 1:21)

This should always be our first course of ministry in the world. Not opinions, preferences, nor condemnation, but the preaching of the Word.

It is faith in the Word that draws people to Jesus and nothing else. Your true ministry to others is only as effective as the depth of the Word which you possess.

Get over your own personal ideas and the high-mindedness of your own opinions and give people what they truly need—faith! It only comes through the preaching of the Word of God. Jesus was known for this.

Now notice what takes place in this overcrowded home:

**SLIDE 4** *"<sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, **they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it** and then lowered the mat the man was lying on."*

Matthew's account just says they brought the man to him on a bed. But Mark actually tells us they tore the roof off to get him to Jesus. In the same way, if we are going to bring people to Jesus we must tear off every layer of doubt, fear, lies, and deception which they are buried in before they can see who Jesus truly is through the crowd.

Sometimes we have got to do some digging for others, tearing away the obstacles

to their faith by demonstrating ours. These friends did not go and tell this man what he ought to do. No, they brought him to Jesus and removed all the barriers that stood between him and the Lord.

So, like we learned last week, we need to renew our minds to the Word of God and let it build faith in our hearts. This brings a liberty to our thought lives. This brings a freedom that only truth can give.

In the same way, we need to shine that light into the hearts and minds of others so they too can "see the light," as the old saying goes.

Now let's notice the very first two things that must happen when someone is brought to Jesus by your faith.

**SLIDE 5** *"<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, **your sins are forgiven.**" <sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?""*

Jesus first saw their faith. Secondly, he deals with the true issue in each person's life—sin. If a person truly has met Jesus through tearing the roof off of their excuses and self-deception, then they will respond as Peter did after the miraculous draft of fish. He fell down before Jesus and said, *"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"* (Luke 5:8)

Peter recognized from a clear display of who Jesus was that he needed forgiveness. Do not aid in the self-justification and excuses others may have. If they have not come to the point of needing forgiveness, any other changes you may impose on them are useless and counterproductive.

Often, like the teachers of the law who were present, people will accuse you of not meeting a person's real needs. However, all other needs are bound up in this one issue. They need to see Jesus for who he really is (the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world) and they need the forgiveness he offers.

Even though others may think this kind of help is useless and foolish, even cruel, the

truth remains, meeting needs without revealing Jesus is futile in truly changing a person's life. What the world calls blasphemy, we call salvation.

Jesus responds to their misguided insinuations with this:

**SLIDE 6** *"<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "**Why are you thinking these things?**" <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?'"*

This is obviously a set up on the part of Jesus. He was operating in the gift of the discerning of spirits. He actually led them into these thoughts by putting this man's sin before his need for healing. Nevertheless, he then demonstrates the truth of this process by then commanding the man to take up his mat and go home. Why?

**SLIDE 7** *"<sup>10</sup> But **I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**" So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

Finally, notice that Jesus did not use the phrase "the Son of God" has authority, he used the phrase "the Son of Man." His birth as a man into the world gave him power on earth to forgive sin.

So notice what the friends did for this man. They brought him to Jesus, tearing away every obstacle that stood in his way. He couldn't walk there himself and the place where Jesus was was overcrowded with people and religious hypocrites.

Sometimes, as you bow in prayer, you need to tear off the roof for those you love. Also, you may need to forgive them as the Lord does. Do not be an obstacle yourself in the faith of someone else.

As the account in Matthew puts it:

**SLIDE 8** **Matthew 9:8 (NIV)** *"When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, **who had given such authority to man.**"*

Some translations also say they saw “*strange things*” that day. But the emphasis is on the power Jesus had to forgive sin as a man.

### **SLIDE 9 You Have Power Too**

After Jesus was resurrected, he appeared to the disciples as they were gathered together and told them this:

**SLIDE 10 John 20:21-23 (NIV)** *“<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> **If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**”*

### **SLIDE 11 Altar Time**

We have an awesome and blessed responsibility to bring others to Jesus, even through the resistance of their own minds and the accusations of scoffers. We are to remove all excuses, deceptions, lies, and regrets they may possess and set them free into the arms of Jesus through forgiveness of sin.

And first and foremost they must see Jesus and us as forgivers of their sin. That’s what grace is all about and that’s where healing begins.