

# Neighbors for Jesus

## THE POWER OF LOVE AND FAITH

Text: Mark 2:1-12

### I. The Context

- A. 1:1 – The Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- B. 1:2-8 – The work of John the Baptist
- C. 1:9-13 – The baptism and temptation of Jesus
- D. 1:14-20 – Jesus preaches and calls four disciples
- E. 1:21-36 – Jesus preaches in Capernaum
  - a. Vs. 23-28 – *Jesus casts out a demon and His fame is spread abroad.*
  - b. Vs. 29-31 – *Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law.*
  - c. Vs. 32-34 – *Jesus heals the sick late into the night.*
  - d. Vs. 35-36 – *Jesus seeks solitude to pray.*
- F. 1:37-45 – Jesus preaches throughout Galilee
  - a. Vs. 37-39 – *Jesus' mission is to preach, not heal.*
  - b. Vs. 40-45 – *Jesus heals a leper and His fame spreads again.*
- G. 2:1-12 – Jesus returns to Capernaum and heals a paralyzed man

### II. The Compassion

- A. The compassion of Jesus...
  - 1. Jesus met the most pressing need first – the forgiveness of sins.
  - 2. Only later did Jesus heal the man of his paralysis.
    - a. His motivation was compassion (cf. 1:41).
    - b. But a greater motivation was His desire to give evidence of His deity.
    - c. This was the ultimate purpose of all of Jesus' miracles.
      - i. To prove that He was from God.
      - ii. To prove that His word is Truth.
      - iii. To prove that He is God.
- B. The compassion of the four friends...
  - 1. They recognized the need of their friend.
  - 2. They sought for a remedy for his sickness.
  - 3. They were willing to overcome any obstacles to help their friend.
    - a. They carried him.
    - b. They were not discouraged because of the crowd.
    - c. They climbed upon the roof.
    - d. They tore through the roof.
    - e. They lowered their friend through the hole in the roof.
  - 4. They had faith enough to act – Jesus saw their faith. {Not his faith!}
  - 5. Who were these four friends?
    - a. Faith
    - b. Hope
    - c. Love
    - d. Determination

### III. The Chain

- A. The Great Commission is a chain of teaching that extends from the Apostles to the faithful Christians of today.
  - 1. Matthew 28:18-20 – *We must observe all that Jesus taught the Apostles.*
  - 2. 2 Timothy 2:2 – *When we are taught, we must teach others.*
- B. Each individual Christian is a link in that chain. Are you a missing link?
  - 1. Mark 2:1-12 – The missing link was four friends who refused to give up.
  - 2. Mark 6:30-43 – The missing link was twelve apostles who were willing to serve.
  - 3. John 1:35-43 – The missing link was Andrew who unselfishly loved his family.
  - 4. Acts 8:26-40 – The missing link was Philip who was willing to sacrifice and go.
  - 5. Acts 9:10-20 – The missing link was Ananias who loved his enemy.
  - 6. Acts 18:24-28 – The missing link was a couple who stood for the truth.
  - 7. Ephesians 2:11-13 – The missing link is **YOU!**