

Four Friends

Mark 2:1-12.

I The Helpless Man.

1. Object Of pity.
2. Representative Man.
3. Sin Is A Disease.

Paralyzes - *Jno. 5:40*

II The Healer.

only one

The great Physician

Matt. 8:9-13.

1. He Is Sympathetic
2. Has Authority.
3. Has Remedy.

Rom. 1:16.



III The Helpers.

Could not heal, but they brought him to HEALER.
We cannot Save, but bring to SAVIOUR.

1. Characteristics Of Helpers.

A. Faith In Healer.

B. Loved Afflicted man.

C. Spirit Of Cooperation.

2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 5:6.

D. Determination - Removed

Roof - *Rom. 1:15.*

2. Object Of Helpers.

Bring one to Christ.

IV The Hinderers.

1. The Passive - Stood in door - Meant no Harm - Self-Seeking.

2. The Active - Carping critics, looking for flaws, malicious men.

FOUR FRIENDS

Mark 2:1-12

INTRO: As we read this account, we see a cross section of humanity. We see men as we would find them every place. We see the helpless, the healer, the helpers, and the hinderers. The picture is as vivid today as it was then. We have the same four classes today. Let us consider them and compare.

I. THE HELPLESS MAN

- A. This poor fellow was an object of pity. He had lost the power to move himself. He had to depend on friends to move him from place to place. He was a paralytic. Many times today we see those who excite our pity. Being moved with compassion, we want to help. An example is this man in Mark 2. He was even more than a paralytic, he was a sinner.
- B. He is a representative man. He represents men that are sick with sin.
- C. Sin is a disease. It makes men inert (idle). "Destitute of the power of moving itself" (web). Sin can actually paralyze noble efforts. John 5:40. Sin can keep us from doing the things we should. It can dumbfound us.

II. THE HEALER

There are many helpless people, but only one healer. He is our great physician. Matt. 8:9-13. He is really qualified.

- A. He is sympathetic. He never turned a man away who came to him for help.
- B. He has the authority. He had the power to perform miracles, as proven by this example. Matt. 28:18. Given of God.
- C. He has the remedy. He healed men. He sent His Word to heal men. They have the power to save. Rom. 1:16.

III. THE HELPERS

The friends of the helpless man could not heal, but they brought their friend to the One who could. We cannot save sinners, but many times we can bring them to the Savior.

- A. Characteristics of Helpers:
 - 1. Faith in the Healer. They believed enough to go to great effort to help them reach Jesus.
 - 2. Love for the Afflicted Man. They truly wanted to help.
 - 3. Spirit of Cooperation. They worked together. 2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 5:6.
 - 4. Determination. They removed the roof, overcoming the obstacle. Rom. 1:15.
- B. Object of the Helpers.
 - 1. Their object was to bring their friend to Christ.
 - 2. In so doing they arrived themselves. No person is nearer the Lord than a soul winner.

IV. THE HINDERS

Two groups of them.

- A. The Passive. They stood in the door, blocking the way. They meant no harm, but hindered a good work. They represent a self-seeking, self-serving group, who are unmindful of the needs of the lost (at home and overseas).
- B. The Active. They were the cold carping critics. They were just looking for flaws. They were trying to find fault. They were malicious men. We have many today that are keeping people from the Son of God by their faultfinding. They find fault with the teachings of Jesus. We also have those who find fault with those who are trying to be helpers.

CONCL: What are we? We cannot be the healer. If we are the helpless, we should be seeking the healer, trying to find out what to do to have our sins forgiven. If we are hinderers, we should resolve today to stop hindering others. If members of the church, we should all be helping others to Christ and, in so doing, we will be found with him. The primary work of the church is not to help the sick, clothe the naked, or feed the hungry. These are good works, but our greatest work is bringing "sin sick souls" to Christ. Which are you?