

An open book is shown at the bottom of the frame, with its pages slightly curved. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A white-outlined rectangular box is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text 'WHY ARE WE HERE AS THE CHURCH?' in white, bold, uppercase letters. Two thin white horizontal lines extend from the left and right sides of the box towards the edges of the image.

WHY ARE WE HERE AS THE CHURCH?

Mark 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹ And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”



⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—
¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”



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**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM
THE LIFE OF JESUS?**

“And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, FOR THAT IS WHY I CAME OUT.”



**If we are not preaching scripture,
the Word of God,
then we have NOTHING to say**



“Son, your sins are forgiven.”



**Jesus always approached those
who came to him in need with compassion.
Needy people were never an inconvenience to Jesus.**



Jesus was underscoring the fact that the fundamental need for this man, and indeed for all humanity resides not in the realm of the physical, but in the area of our relation with God.



“And the disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

John 9:2-3



**Jesus did not say this to shame
the man, but to FREE the man.**



**NO ONE WHO HAS EVER
ASKED GOD FOR FORGIVENESS
HAS EVER BEEN DENIED – NO ONE.**



Let's summarize:

- His life and ministry were rooted in the Word of God.
- He related to those in need with compassion.
- He ministered to the *whole* person – not just part of the man's humanity.



**This is what being full of
GRACE & TRUTH looks like**



**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THE
ACTIONS OF FOUR FRIENDS?**



**“When Jesus saw THEIR faith,
he said to the paralyzed man ...”**



***Faith, as seen in the example of these friends,
is attitude expressed in action;
it is belief demonstrated through behavior.***



**Can you think of someone right now
who is so needy and seemingly incapable of
getting herself/himself to Christ?**

Are YOU that kind of friend?



Let's summarize:

- They were completely convinced of and responsive to their friend's need. That awareness moved them to action
- They were convinced that Jesus could remedy their friend's situation – could heal him.
- They were determined to get their friend to Jesus despite the challenges standing in their way.



**SO WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU TODAY?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

