

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
MARK 2:1-5, 9-12

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY
RODMAN STREET CHURCH
9.28.25

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Title: Don't Leave Me Behind: The Power of Community in Faith

Sermon Summary: This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of faith and the importance of community in bringing people to Christ through the story of the paralyzed man in Mark 2. It uses the story of the paralytic man whose friends lowered him through a roof to reach Jesus as a metaphor for how believers should support and carry each other to spiritual healing. The pastor stresses that faith is often a collective effort, and that God works through our relationships and mutual support to bring about transformation and salvation.

This narrative isn't just about physical healing; it's a testament to the strength we find when we come together in faith. The four friends who carried the paralytic to Jesus embody the essence of true friendship and spiritual support. Their determination to overcome obstacles - even tearing through a roof - shows us the lengths we should go to bring others to Christ.

This story challenges us to be 'carriers of the gospel,' actively seeking ways to support and uplift those around us who are struggling. It's a call to action: Are we willing to be the kind of friend who carries others to Jesus, no matter the cost? This message reminds us that our faith is not just personal, but communal. We're all called to be part of a 'crew' that refuses to leave anyone behind in their spiritual journey.

Chapters

Chapter 1: Carriers of the Gospel

The importance of having faithful friends who carry us to Jesus.

Chapter 2: Cooperation for the Gospel

The power of working together to bring people to Christ.

Chapter 3: Conquering Through the Gospel

The transformative power of Jesus to conquer our struggles and sins.

Key Points:

- We are called to be carriers of the gospel, helping others reach Jesus
- Cooperation in faith multiplies our effectiveness in serving God
- Jesus conquers not just physical ailments but spiritual and emotional burdens
- True friendship means helping others get to Christ, even through unconventional means
- The power of community in overcoming obstacles to faith
- God's ability to heal and transform goes beyond what we can see or imagine
- The importance of having a supportive community or "crew" in one's faith journey
- God's ability to use non-traditional methods to reach and heal people
- The transformative power of encountering Jesus, leading to complete healing and restoration

Scripture Reference:

- - Mark 2:1-12 (The story of Jesus healing the paralytic man)

Stories:

- - The central narrative of the paralytic man being lowered through the roof by his friends
- - Personal anecdote about the pastor's father's friend who came looking for him years later
- - Reference to Brother Brown, who found faith through prison ministry and now serves in the church
- - Mention of the church's innovative "Saturday night skate parties" during the COVID-19 pandemic to reach new people

SCRIPTURES:

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses that align with the main themes:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Mark 2:1-12 (The main text for the sermon)
2. Galatians 6:2
3. Matthew 28:18-20
4. John 6:37
5. 1 Corinthians 3:6 (alluded to when mentioning Paul planting, Apollos watering)

Alluded to:

1. Matthew 25:35-36 (visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, etc.)
2. John 8:36 ("He who the Son sets free is free indeed")
3. Romans 8:37 ("We are more than conquerors")
4. Luke 8:41-56 (Jairus' daughter)
5. John 11 (Raising of Lazarus)
6. Luke 23:43 (Thief on the cross)
7. 1 Corinthians 9:22 ("I became all things to all people")

Relevant verses aligning with main themes:**1. On friendship and helping others:**

- Proverbs 17:17
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

2. On faith and healing:

- Matthew 9:22
- James 5:15

3. On God's power to transform:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Ezekiel 36:26

4. On spreading the Gospel:

- Mark 16:15
- Acts 1:8

5. On God's love and salvation:

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8

6. On overcoming obstacles:

- Philippians 4:13
- Isaiah 40:31

7. On unity in the church:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Ephesians 4:11-16

These verses capture many of the themes discussed in the sermon, including faith, healing, friendship, transformation, and spreading the Gospel.

QUOTES:

Don't leave me behind. Go on and shout. Don't leave me behind.

If you really love your friends, get them to Jesus. If you really love your family members, get them to Jesus.

When life gets heavy, when stress gets heavy, when depression gets heavy, when temptation gets heavy, you need somebody who will say, I will carry a corner until you are made whole again.

Everybody needs a crew. Not just people who hype you up, but people who will lift you up. Not people who just read your post, but somebody who will pray for you in your pain.

Everybody needs somebody to stand in the gap on our behalf.

Cooperation multiplies our faith. If one person had tried to carry me, I would not have made it. If two could have dragged me halfway, but it took all four of my dudes working together to get me into the presence of Jesus.

Jesus looked at me and he looked beyond my legs. He looked beyond my paralysis. He looked beyond my brokenness, and He saw my soul.

I came in broken, but I'm leaving whole. I came in being carried, but I'm leaving walking. I came in here down, but I'm leaving lifted up because when nothing else could help, love lifted me.

We have to become carriers of the Gospel. We gotta be concerned about the Gospel. We gotta cooperate with God and each other for the Gospel. We gotta be constant for the Gospel. We gotta be conquerors of the Gospel.

You gotta catch the fish before you can clean the fish.

We are carriers spiritually. We are lifting people in prayer. Socially, we are standing with the lonely and the overlooked. Physically, we are helping those who cannot help themselves.

If God has done something for you, you ought to tell somebody. I'm not bragging, I'm just testifying about how good God has been.

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Carriers of the Gospel

Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us of the power of community in our faith journey. Just as the paralyzed man's friends carried him to Jesus, we too are called to be "carriers of the gospel." Reflect on how you can support and uplift others in their spiritual walk. Who in your life needs to be "carried" to Jesus? How can you use your faith to break down barriers and create pathways for others to encounter Christ? Remember, sometimes our faith journey isn't just about us - it's about how we can work together to bring others into God's presence. Today, pray for opportunities to be a "carrier" for someone in need.

Day 2: The Power of Persistent Faith

Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Devotional: The friends in Mark's account demonstrated incredible persistence, even tearing through a roof to get their friend to Jesus. Today's parable of the persistent widow echoes this theme. In our spiritual lives, we often face obstacles and discouragements. But God honors persistent faith. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have given up too easily. What "roofs" might God be calling you to break through in prayer or action? Remember, as the sermon states, "Sometimes you got to get ugly for Jesus in order for Him to get pretty for you." Don't be afraid to demonstrate "roof-tearing faith" in your pursuit of God's will.

Day 3: Forgiveness Before Healing

Reading: Psalm 103:1-12

Devotional: In the story of the paralyzed man, Jesus first forgave his sins before healing his body. This reminds us that our spiritual health is even more crucial than our physical well-being. Today's Psalm beautifully describes God's forgiveness. As you read, let the words wash over you, reminding you of God's boundless mercy. Reflect on areas in your life where you need to receive or extend forgiveness. How might accepting God's forgiveness change your perspective on your challenges? Remember, as the sermon states, "Before he healed my legs, he healed my heart." Ask God to heal you from the inside out today.

Day 4: More Than Conquerors

Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Devotional: The sermon proclaims, "Jesus wants you to know that you are more than a conqueror." Paul's powerful words in Romans 8 affirm this truth. No matter what challenges you face, nothing can separate you from God's love. Reflect on areas in your life where you feel defeated or overwhelmed. How does the assurance of being "more than conquerors through him who loved us" change your perspective? Remember, as the sermon states, "If he lifted me, he can lift you." Today, claim your identity as a conqueror in Christ and face your challenges with renewed courage.

Day 5: Don't Leave Me Behind

Reading: John 6:35-40

Devotional: The sermon's title, "Don't Leave Me Behind," echoes a deep human fear of abandonment. But today's reading assures us that Jesus will never turn away anyone who comes to Him. God's desire is that none should be left behind. Reflect on times when you've felt left out or forgotten. How does Jesus' promise to never drive away those who come to Him comfort you? Consider who in your life might be feeling "left behind" - how can you extend Christ's inclusive love to them? Remember the sermon's words: "Everybody needs a crew. Not just people who hype you up, but people who will lift you up." Be that

lifting presence for someone today, and trust that Christ will never leave you behind.

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Small Group Guide: "Don't Leave Me Behind"

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to the message and guide the discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. We all need people who will support us and help bring us to Jesus.
2. Cooperation and teamwork are essential in living out the Gospel.
3. Jesus conquers not just our physical ailments, but also our spiritual needs.
4. The Community of Hope vision involves supporting one another across various aspects of life.
5. True friendship means helping others encounter Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon talks about "carriers of the gospel." Who has been a "carrier" in your life, bringing you closer to Jesus? How can you be a carrier for others?
2. Reflect on the story of the paralyzed man's friends. What obstacles did they overcome to get their friend to Jesus? How can we show similar determination in our faith lives?
3. The pastor emphasizes cooperation in spreading the gospel. How can we better work together as a church community to reach others for Christ?
4. The sermon mentions doing "unorthodox" or "non-traditional" things to reach people for Christ. What are some creative ways we could engage our community with the gospel?
5. How does the concept of Jesus conquering not just physical ailments but also spiritual needs impact your understanding of salvation and healing?
6. The pastor talks about the Community of Hope vision with its six pillars. Which pillar do you feel most drawn to support or participate in? Why?

7. Reflect on the statement, "You got to catch the fish before you can clean the fish." How does this apply to evangelism and discipleship in our context?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one person in your life who needs to be "carried" to Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily and finding ways to support them this week.

2. Choose one of the six pillars of the Community of Hope vision to get involved with or support in some way this month.

3. Write a thank-you note to someone who has been a "carrier" of the gospel in your life, expressing your gratitude for their influence.

4. As a group, brainstorm one "unorthodox" outreach idea that your church could implement to reach new people for Christ.

5. Reflect on areas in your life where you need Jesus to conquer something beyond just physical healing. Share with a trusted friend or group member and pray together about it.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying for each other, asking God to help the group members apply the lessons learned and to be effective "carriers" of the gospel in their daily lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we be 'carriers of the gospel' in our daily lives, and what challenges might we face in doing so?
2. The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a 'crew' that supports and uplifts you. How can we cultivate such relationships in our spiritual communities?
3. What does it mean to 'cooperate for the gospel', and how can we apply this concept in our churches and broader communities?
4. The speaker talks about doing 'unorthodox' or 'non-traditional' things to reach people for Christ. What are some innovative ways we could engage with our community to share the gospel?
5. How does the idea of Jesus looking beyond our outward appearance to see our soul challenge our own perceptions of others and ourselves?

6. The sermon mentions Jesus conquering various struggles like sin, shame, and fear. Which of these resonates most with you, and why?
7. What does it mean to be 'more than conquerors through Him who loved us', and how can we live out this truth in our daily lives?
8. The speaker emphasizes that 'you got to catch the fish before you can clean the fish.' How does this metaphor apply to evangelism and discipleship?
9. How can we balance the need for traditional religious practices with the call to be flexible and innovative in reaching people for Christ?
10. The sermon concludes with the phrase 'Don't leave me behind.' In what ways might we unintentionally be leaving people behind in our spiritual communities, and how can we address this?