

SCRIPTURE

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that He was back home. Soon the house where He was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While He was preaching God’s Word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above His head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.” But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “What is He saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!” Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so He asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!” Mark 2:1-12

PRIORITIES IN THE CHURCH

The top priority of a church isn’t to reach sinners. It’s to build the saints!

But churches are in error when they build saints without reaching sinners and vice versa.

A FEW THINGS BRINGERS DO

1/ We see people as they are.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so (physical and spiritual) death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Romans 5:12

The lost are more lost than you can comprehend. Notice these descriptors:

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|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Blind | Enslaved | Children of Darkness |
| Broken | Unclean | Under the Power of Satan |
| Lost | Enemies of God | Under the Wrath of God |
| Separated from God | Deceived | |
| Dead | Hearts of Stone | |

“No one does good, not even one!” Psalm 14, Psalm 53, Romans 3, Mark 10, Luke 18

2/ We recognize God has placed us in the lives of certain individuals.

(God) has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. Acts 17:6-7

3/ We figure out ways to bring people to Jesus.

86% of unchurched people say they would accept an invitation to church from a friend.

We do this through conversations, prayer moments, text invites, “bringvitations”, etc.

4/ We break down barriers.

We have to break down our barriers.

Most of us don't have physical barriers, but mental (insecurity, fear of rejection, etc.).

We have to break down their barriers.

Your genuine care for a person will break down more barriers than your argument.

In humility value others above yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

5/ We remember only Jesus can save.

Humans can produce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. John 3:6

6/ We view life as fragile and fleeting.

Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. James 4:14