

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

## 7- A Servant Doesn't Let Obstacles Stand in the Way *Mark 2:1-12*

Obstacles...we all face them, most of us every day. Some are so high that we cannot see any way out, around or through them. Many cry out to us that we need to give up and quit. Many do give up and quit. Today in our journey through Mark we are looking at "*A Servant Doesn't Let Obstacles Stand in the Way.*" Out text tells a story of some persevering friends who served, who served someone less fortunate than they were.

### I- The Obstacle:

When Jesus was in Capernaum He stayed at Peter's home. *Mark 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.* Jesus had become so popular as a healer and speaker that He found it hard to steal away.

*Mark 2:2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.*

So the scene is set for us. Jesus is inside teaching and preaching and the house was filled. No one else could get in the house. Let's meet some friends of a man that needs to be brought to Jesus.

### II- The Friends of the Sick Man:

There was a man who was gravely sick. Four of his friends brought him to Jesus. The problem was the crowd. *Mark 2:3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. 4a And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press....* The obstacle was they could not get within reach of Jesus so their friend could be healed. What were they to do? Ask yourself this question, what would you have done.

### III- The Solution:

Notice what the friends did. *Mark 2:4b ... they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

Wow! Talk about perseverance and overcoming obstacles. These friends went to what would be considered drastic measures. What did you focus on? Why, they tore the roof of the house off, or what will the house owner say. Or was it these servants would not let anything stand in their way. May I suggest their focus was on the man not the roof? After all these four probably could have fixed the roof back as good or better than it ever was but they could not fix their friend. They did not think about what others in the room thought or would say. They were single minded in doing what they needed to do to bring their friend to Jesus.

What are some obstacles that you may be facing that you need to overcome to better serve the Lord?

### IV- The Healing and the Controversy:

Notice what the results were. *Mark 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.* Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven. Now this caused a firestorm. I am sure the roof was soon forgotten. Notice the reaction of the religious crowd. *Mark 2:6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, 7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?* This is a great declaration on the part of Jesus that He is God.

*Mark 2:8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? 9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? 10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) 11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. 12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.*

It would have been easier to heal him physically but to show that He healed him spiritually of his sins Jesus told him to take up the bed the friends had brought him on and carry it out.

So how can we learn from this, what else do we need to know?

One, the power to make a difference in other's lives resided within every believer. Notice what the Bible says, *Philippians 4:13 HCSB I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

This power is in the form of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us in *Acts 1:8 HCSB But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Are there some obstacles that you have been allowing to stand in the way of serving Christ? Have you had a vision that is big enough to really interest you and engage you in giving all you have to God?