



## Sermon Questions

Date: *September 25, 2022* | Scripture: *Mark 2:1-17*

1. Read the passages from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. Think back to when you became a Christian. What did you first come to Jesus for? If you are only recently considering Jesus for the first time, what has brought you to him? What are you looking for?
3. The four friends brought their friend to Jesus so he could heal him, but Jesus first forgives him. Do you see forgiveness as your greatest need? Why does Jesus see it as the most important thing he can give?
4. How often do you find yourself extending forgiveness? Who have you forgiven recently? Who do you need to forgive?

*Inward Grace in Action (See back also)*

The paralytic only came to Jesus because his four friends were tenacious in bringing him to Jesus, despite how heavy he might have been to carry or how unwanted his presence might have been or how intrusive it was to dig a hole in the roof of someone's home. Their tenacity was rooted in a simple recognition of their friend's need and a deep confidence that Jesus really could heal him—and he did.

- Who are the people in your life who need to be brought to Jesus? Write down a few names.
- What factors might discourage you from persisting in bringing those friends to Jesus? Is it just too awkward to evangelize? Do you think your friends are too far away from him to carry?
- How might you creatively explore options to overcome challenges that arise when carrying friends to Jesus?

**Action:** Commit yourself to praying this week for your friends who need Jesus, and for your own courage, persistence, creativity, and faith in carrying them. Think about how you can help carry the other members of your community group with their burdens, too.

### WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

*Reflect* on these Scriptures:

- Genesis 3:1-24
- 2 Samuel 9:1-13
- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Matt 6:5-15
- Romans 5:1-11
- 1 John 1:5-10

*Serve:* there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

*Pray* for our mission partner Romanian Christian Enterprises (RCE) as they continue to serve children with special needs and celebrate their 30th year of ministry!

*Reach out* if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at [deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org](mailto:deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org)

Jesus isn't afraid to hold company with sinners, outcasts, the wealthy, the poor, the religious elite, the regular townsfolk, or anyone else. However, Jesus' ministry isn't merely about gaining a crowd. As he states in Mark 2:17 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." The reality is, everyone in attendance at that party was "sick." The only distinction was that some recognized their need and looked to Jesus for healing and forgiveness, while others were convinced they didn't need him.

- Imagine yourself at Levi's dinner party. Do you feel like you'd belong there? Who would make you feel uncomfortable if they were in attendance? People who support a political party you oppose? Members of the LGBTQ+ community? Family members who have hurt you? Condescending religious leaders? Homeless people?
- Do you recognize that you are sick and in need of healing? What do you need Jesus to forgive you for?

**Action:** Ask God to soften your heart to those you'd feel uncomfortable sharing a meal with.