

Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 6

Number 47

December 1, 2019

The Paralytic Borne of Four

One of the better known healing miracles of Jesus is recorded in Mark 2:1-12. It is also recorded in Matthew 9:1-8 and Luke 5:17-26. It is the story of the paralytic brought to Jesus by his four friends. The man is let down through the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching. The story takes place in Capernaum, a place described as "His own city". Capernaum as located on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee and served as the base for the public ministry of Jesus in Galilee.

When Jesus healed this man, a wide range of emotions were produced that day. He was charged with blasphemy by some and God was glorified with amazement by others.

Can you picture the dramatic scene as it occurred that day? Can you see the brightly colored crowds of interested peasants? They are pressing in at the door and inside the room. There in the middle of the room is Jesus, the teacher.

He is proclaiming to Pharisees and Scribes the truths of God. These are things that seemed so new to them. Now, see the four men who arrived late that day. They are carrying a poor pitiable burden. It is their paralyzed friend upon his bed.

It wasn't rocket surgery to size up the situation. They realized quickly they could not get into the room to Jesus. With invincible determination, love and hope they persevered. This man is totally immobile and confined to a stretcher. They carried their burden upstairs to the roof. They removed the tiles of the roof and suddenly let down the bed with their friend on it in front of Jesus. They challenged His attention and compassion. Jesus forgives him of his sins.

You see, Jesus observed the faith of the paralytic and his friends and said, "Son, your sins are forgiven

you." Now, can you see the disdain of the scribes as they cry, blasphemy? Yet, for the paralytic it is wonderful. He is healed!

Jesus tells him to arise, take up his bed, and go home. He does it immediately, glorifying God. The people are amazed because they have never seen anything like this. Yet, there are lessons here for us.

We see in this story the power of Christ on Earth to forgive sins. Jesus continues to have power to forgive sins. Forgiveness is made possible by the shedding of His blood and is offered to those who respond in obedience to his commands in the gospel.

We also see the preciousness of friends with faith. The paralytic was blessed with friends who had faith and Jesus saw their faith. Without them he would not have been able to come to Jesus.

We are in this story. The healing of the paralytic reveals a man who was in need. He was a man blessed with good friend. He was a man who was forgiven of his sins by Jesus Christ.

Like him, we all have needs that can only be met by Jesus. We are in need of forgiveness that only Jesus has the power to give. May we have the same faith in Jesus Christ today that we will respond to his love in obedient faith and come to him to fulfill our needs.

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In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

Music Yes!

**Instruments
No!**

**Another installment of
our sermon series:**

The Misunderstood Church

FOR THE PANTRY....

Fruit Juice

Getting The Most From Service

Have you ever wondered why it is that you just don't seem to receive the same satisfaction from serving God that others enjoy? Why is it that some people seem to be happy in serving God while others fail to receive any satisfaction at all? Watch those who are happy and see if they are not always busy in their service to God. They are the people who are not only present for all services possible, but they are happy to be in the service. They engage in whatever part of the service they can and give their hearts whole-heartedly to those who may be doing some service in which all do not participate. When they leave the house of worship they realize they are going into the field of labor. You will find them taking advantage of the opportunities that come their way to be of service to the Lord and His church. They are interested in all of the church program. They will not only be found in Bible study, and other service periods, but they will be trying to build up that part of the Lord's work. When the interest or attendance increases they realize they had a part I making it possible. When someone obeys the gospel they know they contributed something to making this possible. They stand ready and willing at all times to perform

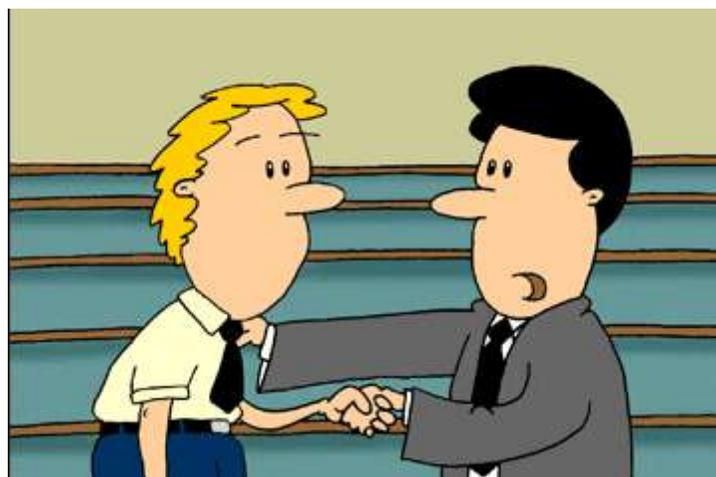
any service possible to building up the cause of Christ.

But with others, this is not the case. They rather have a "gimme" spirit about serving God. Someone else must always be doing the work that they should be doing. They can't seem to put their hearts into the worship services. Going to worship is a trying experience and they get very little from the lessons. They are generally sorry to see Sunday come and are glad to get home after services are over. Usually they have some criticism of every service. They think of calling on others in the interest of the cause of Christ as belonging exclusively to the preacher. Visiting the sick is not something they enjoy. Therefore, whether at worship or at home they put nothing into the cause of Christ and get nothing out of it.

What are you getting out of your religion? If you are not getting as much as you think you should, try putting a little more into it. It will always work.

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On The Lighter Side.....



I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT I WOULD PREFER 'AMEN' OR 'HALLELUJAH' TO 'BOO YA' AND 'YOU DA MAN'

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*Love is a fabric which will never fade,
no matter how often it is washed in the water
of adversity and grief.*

*Take a tip from nature – man's ears aren't
made to shut – his mouth is!*

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

David Williams (Melvin Williams son) is in ICU at Good Shepherd in Longview with renal failure and heart issues.

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Williams, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams' son) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Leslie Bradshaw** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Bethany Bridges** (Debra Pate's friend), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Marcus Cruz Cranford** (Sue Hagler's-great-great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in law) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **David Williams** (Melvin Williams son)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Teresa Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**, **Amanda Bradshaw** and **Andrew Bradshaw** (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.

COVERED DISH LUNCHEON



**Sunday
December 8, 2019**

**Please plan to
come and bring
someone with
you!**

How Do You Treat People?

"But he willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

The lawyer had asked the question concerning what he should do to have eternal life, and Christ had told him to love God and to love his neighbor as himself. The implied lesson is that the lawyer did not love his neighbor, for he attempted to justify himself by asking the identity of his neighbor. To teach him the lesson he needed, Jesus taught the parable of the Good Samaritan. The priest and the Levite saw the man who had been beaten and robbed, but left him as he was. The Samaritan rendered assistance to the injured man and thereby showed himself to be a neighbor, and also that he considered the man who needed his assistance, his neighbor.

By our conduct, we demonstrate to others our consideration of them, just as the good Samaritan did in the case of the man who had been robbed. Had he passed by on the other side as did the priest and the Levite, he would have shown himself to be no different. So it is our treatment of those with whom we come in contact. Our actions and our words toward them and about them show the way that we consider them. Christianity is a religion that is to be manifested toward all, it makes no difference who it is. Even our enemies are to be prayed for, to be blessed, and are to receive from us those things that are good. It is Christlike to be humble, kind and forbearing. It is devilish to be any other way. Say, how do you treat people?

-Foster L. Ramsey



Across The Preacher's Desk

Dr. Luke records a story for us in Luke 17 that occurred one day when Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and was passing through Samaria and Galilee. Jesus was approached by ten lepers, miserable creatures afflicted with a horrific disease. They cried out to Jesus for mercy and He told them to go and show themselves to the priests. While they were on their way, they were cleansed. We are told that only one of the ten returned to Jesus to say "thank you". Jesus asked the question, "were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God save this stranger".

How much like those nine lepers are we? This is the season of the year that we refer to as the "Thanksgiving Season". November 28th of this past week was the day set aside on our calendar as "Thanksgiving Day".

Yet, do we really take the time to show our gratitude to God for all that He has done for us or has "Thanksgiving Day" simply become a day when we gorge ourselves with copious amounts of food and watch football and spend time with family enjoying a day off from work? Let's show our gratitude to God for what He has done for us, not just on one day a year, but let's express our gratitude daily both in word and in deed.

One way of showing our gratitude to God is to meet Him at His House regularly for Worship. How are we doing with that?

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**