

GET THE CLAY OUT OF THE WAY

Mark 2:1-12

- ¹ And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house.
- 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.
- ³ And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.
- ⁴ And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, 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.
- ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.
- 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?
- 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.

INTRO:

Three Groups of People in Our Text:

1. Those Who Hinder

**Four people tried to take this paralyzed man to Jesus, but they could not because of the press (those who were hindering them) in verse 4a.

**Some people do not help a service or even try to help the Savior.

a. Hinderers Block – They block those who are trying to get to the Lord.

b. Hinderers Burden – They make the task more burdensome for those who are trying to get to the Lord.

c. Hinderers Brake – They hold up the blessings that the Lord is ready to bless others with.

2. Those Who Help

Some people do all they can to help the **Sick, the **Sinner**, the **Service**, and the **Savior**!

**Thank God for those who are willing to help!

** There were four of them, so each had a corner, and each was pulling their load! Are you doing your part and carrying your corner?

**These four saw a sick sinner and a Superior Savior, and they were determined to help the two connect! Do you ever see and need and do your part to help the sinner, the service, and the Savior?

3. Those Who Harp

**In Verses 6 -7, we see there were scribes who reasoned in their hearts and started asking questions and harping on Jesus the preacher!

**Why does He speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins?

**Those who harp always Criticize, Challenges, and Condemns the preacher and those who are trying to help!

Explanation: These four men wanted to get this paralyzed man to Jesus no matter what it took. They would not let those who hindered their pathway to Jesus keep them from Jesus! So they went up on the roof and tore the roof off so they could get their friend to Jesus!

****We ought to get on our faces before God and tear the roof off with our prayers just to get our friends and family to Jesus!**

This is how the roof was probably made back then. The roofs were usually flat, and most of the time had a trap door for a way to escape out of the upper room. However, it still wasn't big enough to lower this man's bed down through it. So they still had to break the roof and pull it back.

Usually the roofs were made of beams with sticks laid across them. On top of the sticks were clay tiles, and then clay was packed on top of the clay tiles and then grass was sewn on top of the clay. These men had to literally pull off the clay and get the clay out of the way to get their friend to Jesus!

They were passionate about getting their friend to Jesus. They were determined, dedicated, and diligent in their task to get the clay out of the way! How determined, dedicated, and diligent are you to do something for God?

These men removed the clay. Clay in the Bible is often a reference to our own flesh that hinders the Spirit of God. We must get our clay out of the way! Let me tell you what happens when we get the clay out of the way!

BODY - GET THE CLAY OUT OF THE WAY

I. You Can Examine the Person of Jesus

****After they got the clay out of the way, they could see Jesus, and they could also see what Jesus was doing!**

****You will never really see Jesus at work in your life or in the lives of others until you get the clay out of the way!**

A. Jesus Becomes More Discernible

****Discernment means to catch sight of, recognize, and understand!**

****When you get the clay out of the way, you can catch sight of the Lord, recognize the Lord, and even understand the work of the Lord better.**

1. The Voice of the Savior is Resounding

****Don't let His voice get drowned out of your life by your fleshly Sin and your fleshly Shortcomings!**

****When they removed the clay, oh how well they could hear the sweet voice of the Lord.**

****The Lord's voice can be Hushed and Hampered by the clay!**

2. The Visual of the Savior is Remarkable

****The Visual of the Lord can be Hindered and Handicapped by the clay!**

3. The Victory of the Savior is Reviving

****When we get the clay out of the way we can see His Miracles and His Marvels right before our eyes!**

B. Jesus Becomes More Desirable

1. You will Display Faith (V-5)

2. You will Desire Forgiveness (V-5)

****When you get the clay out of the way and you really see Him, you will display Faith and really desire Forgiveness!**

****Do you remember the day you got the clay out of the way and you displayed your faith and desired His forgiveness?**

II. You Can Enter the Presence of Jesus

Mark 2:4 **they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.**

****When you get the clay out of the way, you can get into the very presence of Jesus!**

A. He'll Help You To Dismiss Your Burden

****This man's burden was his Sins and his Sickness, and both got dismissed!**

****If you want your burden dismissed, then get the clay out of the way and get into His presence.**

1. Remove the Clay of Fear

****Some fear people, some fear praying, and some fear praising and therefore they miss God's presence.**

2. Remove the Clay of Failures

****Don't let faults and fetters keep you from the presence of the Lord.**

3. Remove the Clay of Foolishness

****We all have done foolish things in our lives. Some let rebellious foolishness keep them from God, and some let religious foolishness keep them from God.**

B. He'll Help You To Discover Your Blessing

****The blessing for this man with palsy was his Sins were gone and his Sickness was gone!**

****Do you know who gives me the most trouble in this church? - my own fleshly clay!**

****Our own fleshly clay will keep us from discovering God's blessings in our life!**

1. It is our duty to Deny our fleshly clay daily!

2. It is our duty to Dispute our fleshly clay daily!

****We have got to get the clay out of the way if we ever expect God to help us discover our blessings!**

III. You Can Experience the Power of Jesus

****This paralyzed man experienced the power of Jesus in a two-fold manner.**

A. He Experienced the Lord's Cleansing Power

****In V-5 Jesus said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."**

****We can only experience His cleansing power when we do two things . . .**

1. There has to be a Revealing of Sin

****We see a type of this in what these men did with this clay tile roof.**

⁴ **And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was:**

****The sin of the flesh has to be uncovered . . . revealed!**

****Nobody can get right with God until the clay is uncovered and exposed as sinful as it really is and that the man inside the fleshly clay is revealed as sinful and in need of God and His salvation!**

2. There has to be a Repenting of Sin

****We see a type of this also in what these men did with this clay tile roof.**

⁴ **. . . 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.**

****Just like they had to break the roof tile clay in order to get to Jesus, this fleshly clay must be broken before God in repentance!**

****Brokenness leads to repenting of our sins which leads to His cleansing us of our sins!**

B. He Experienced the Lord's Changing Power

****In V-11 Jesus said, "I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house."**

1. It Changed His Walk!

2. It Changed His Witness!

****If we will just get the clay out of the way, Jesus will change our walk and witness as well!**

****When the clay gets out of the way, the Lord's changing power will have you doing all kinds of weird things like weeping, witnessing, and worshipping.**

CLOSE

- 1. Are you trying to get closer to Jesus? If so, what is keeping you from Jesus?**
- 2. Don't you think it's time to get the clay out of the way?**
- 3. Get the clay out of the way and examine the person of Jesus, enter the presence of Jesus, and experience the power of Jesus!**
- 4. Be a person that will help others get the clay out of the way. Don't be one of those who hinders or harps, be a person that helps the sinful, the sick, the service, and the Savior!**