

"BRINGING PEOPLE"

Mark 2:1-5,12

March 10, 2024

El Paso (Albert McMakin brought someone to church one day and it changed the world)
Intro: *IT IS AN EXTRA ORDINARY PHENOMENA...I SAY THAT BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING SO SIMPLE, EVEN MUNDANE WE DON'T THINK OF IT AS SUCH. IT INDICATES HOW SMALL A HINGE SOMETIMES THE DESTINY OF AN INDIVIDUAL SWINGS.*

- The texts and scriptures we are going to look at this morning underscore a very simple but crucial element in serving God...I think it goes a long way to indicate the quality of our Christian life.

Do you not think that as believers we are supposed to project something attractive...that should birth in some a desire to have what we have?...*THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF WHAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY.*

- **[Matthew 5:14-16]** "*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

- The salient question is...**ARE WE THAT?...WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE THAT THERE ARE THOSE AROUND US GLORIFYING GOD BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY SEE IN US?**

- Do we *BLEND IN* with everyone else?...or do we *STAND OUT*?...Those are some of the dynamics that have to do with successfully doing what I want to aim at this morning.

THIS SHOULD LEND ITSELF TO WHAT I WANT TO PREACH ABOUT...THE NECESSITY/IMPORTANCE OF YOU BRINGING PEOPLE INTO AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE GOD CAN WORK A MIRACLE IN THEIR LIVES...OTHERWISE!...A MIRACLE MAY NEVER OCCUR.

[Mark 2:1-5, 12] "And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and IT WAS HEARD that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, BRINGING a paralytic who was CARRIED by four men. And when THEY COULD NOT COME NEAR HIM because of the crowd, they UNCOVERED THE ROOF where He was. So when they had BROKEN THROUGH, they LET DOWN the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you...Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that ALL WERE AMAZED and GLORIFIED GOD, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

I. THE PHENOMENA

- A. **I say 'phenomena' because it is something that Jesus absolutely depended on in order to carry out/ expand His ministry.**

1. PEOPLE BRINGING PEOPLE INTO HIS PRESENCE.

a. So much occurred because of this, the majority of His miracles...people brought people to be healed.

- This is what is happening in our TEXT: **Vs. 3: "Then THEY CAME to Him, BRINGING a paralytic who was CARRIED by four men."**
 - It wasn't the paralytic who came...it was his four friends who brought him.
 - He couldn't have come on his own.

b. How would this have come about?

- **THEY** wanted him to be there...**THEY** believed Jesus could heal him.
 - This was not initiated by the paralytic but by his four friends.
 - And look how desperate they were and what they had to overcome in order to get him into the presence of Jesus.
- '**...BRINGING a paralytic who was CARRIED by four men...**'
 - Extremely inconvenient...their desire to get him into the presence of Jesus overcame.
 - '**...they could not come near Him because of the crowd...**'
 - This wasn't good enough...they're outside...so many people, '**...no longer room...not even near the door...**'.
 - They **HAD TO** get him closer...next to Jesus...close enough to talk/touch.
- They didn't give up: '**...they UNCOVERED the roof where He was...they had BROKEN THROUGH...let down the bed...**'
 - *Almost inconceivable!*

c. Without this effort to get him to the feet of Jesus, there would have been no miracle.

- It says so much about these four friends.

B. This not the only occurrence of such a thing

1. HAPPENED OFTEN

a. Something Jesus depended on.

- He didn't GO GET everyone He wanted to help...**HE DEPENDED ON PEOPLE BRINGING PEOPLE IN NEED.**
- The gathering of His disciples...He didn't go get all of them, put out an add, use zip-recruiter...some were brought to Him: **[John 1:41-42a] "He (Andrew) first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS..."**
- *Andrew had been a disciple of JtheB...heard Jesus and followed Him.*
- Brought his brother Peter to Jesus...someone Jesus had a powerful destiny for his life and he came into Jesus' presence because someone brought him.

- [John 1:43-46] “The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."... Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, “COME AND SEE.”

2. THE MIRACLES

b. The majority of miracles...it was a phenomena.

- People were hearing, seeing, experiencing Jesus for themselves...Got excited for what He could do for people they knew.
- People that were sick/ broken/ tormented...[Matthew 4:24] “Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and THEY BROUGHT to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”
- They have diseases/ injuries/ tormented of mind/ demon possessed.
- [Matthew 9:32] “As THEY WENT OUT, behold, they BROUGHT TO HIM a man, mute and demon-possessed.”
- From individual encounters...to crowds.
 - Sometimes it was people bringing Jesus to where someone was sick/ dying.
- [Mark 5:22-24a] “And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." So Jesus went with him...”
- Something people were stirred and inspired to do .
- [Matthew 14:35-36] “And when THE MEN OF THAT PLACE recognized Him, THEY SENT OUT into all that surrounding region, BROUGHT TO HIM all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.”
- ‘the men of that place...’ Nameless people contributing to the advance of God’s Kingdom on earth...BRINGING PEOPLE...

3. A FEATURE OF DISCIPLESHIP.

a. Conversion of Saul (AP)...great persecutor of the church...tried to attend, rejected.

- [Acts 9:26] “And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.”

- NOW WHAT?...Is it over for him? Point: There was nothing Saul could do to ingratiate him to the church...they didn't want him.
- [Acts 9:27] "**But Barnabas TOOK HIM and BROUGHT HIM to the apostles.**
And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus."
- Barnabas validated the conversion of Saul of Tarsus....then the church accepted him.

II. THE THEY

A. Often repeated word in these narratives.

1. THEY

- a. **Something very spontaneous is happening...natural/ organic.**
 - No one is orchestrating this to be so...it became a natural feature of Jesus ministry.
 - **'..he brought him to Jesus...come and see...THEY brought to Him all sick people...THEY went out and brought to him an man mute...Come and lay your hands on her...Jesus went with him...THE MEN OF THAT PLACE brought to Him all who were sick...BARNABAS took him and brought him to the apostles.**
 - Without the 'they' how much less would Jesus have accomplished.
 - **HE NEEDED THE 'THEY' TO BRING PEOPLE SO JESUS COULD HEAL THEM, SAVE THEM, CALL THEM TO THEIR DESTINY.**

B. In most cases no names/ identity.

1. WHO ARE 'THEY'?

- a. **So vital to the work of God, the ministry of Jesus.**
 - Without them Jesus would have been far more limited.
 - Would have had to function in a much smaller arena.
 - 'They' caused his ministry to spread/ expand/ wield greater influence.
 - Opened the door to a supernatural dimension being exposed to people.
 - **They?...They who?...People that knew Jesus/ heard and saw what He did.**
 - **THEY GOT EXCITED/ INSPIRED ABOUT WHAT HE COULD DO FOR PEOPLE THEY KNEW WHO HAD NEEDS IN THEIR LIVES...and they brought them, carried them...led them by the hand (many were blind)**
 - They thought of their friends/ family/ people from work/ marketplace/ beggars in the street...and 'they' brought them.
 - In most cases **THE 'THEY'** don't have names, they're just people out there, who heard about Jesus, maybe experienced a miracle themselves...saw miracles...**GOT EXCITED, STIRRED TO BRING OTHERS.**

- No one told them...Jesus didn't sit people down and say...'Ok, here's what you need to do...Go get people and bring them...' **HE DIDN'T NEED TO... THEY DID IT SPONTANEOUSLY.**

2. WHO ARE THE 'THEY'...THE THEY TODAY ARE **YOU!**

a. **Most of you got saved because someone brought you...**

- *The they was them...brought you to church so you could experience the miracle that they experienced.*
- And then, you got saved/ healed/ radically converted, born-again...and **YOU BECAME THE THEY...WHO STARTED TO THINK ABOUT WHO YOU COULD BRING.**
- Is there someone here that you brought?..still here today serving God?!!

b. **This is how the work of God expands/ grows/ becomes enlarged.**

- **IT DEPENDS YOU BEING THE THEY THAT BRINGS PEOPLE.**
- Early revival in Prescott/ Tucson/ Cape Cod/ El Paso...**PEOPLE BRINGING PEOPLE...WITHOUT THAT DIMENSION AT WORK...THE INFLUENCE OF MINISTRY IS LIMITED.**

c. **You used to do this/ think about this.**

- When and why did it stop?...and your Christian experience becomes just about bringing yourself, family?...**WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT EVER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING SOMEONE.**
- *Ex. Discipleship ministries: 'What Brings People To Church?'*
- *"A Personal invitation from someone you know" is by far the most cited reason people first heard about and then started attending a Church, according to The U.S. Congregational Life Survey."*
 - *1.4% come because of advertising/ Nearly 40% of those who start attending do so because someone THEY KNOW brought them.*
- *The survey didn't include any personal outreach and evangelism...(which most churches don't practice)...personal contact with people on an outreach...engaging them in conversation about Jesus and what He can do in their lives would add to that figure.*
- *Freddy Lozano...Never seen anything like it...obsessed with bringing people, rarely came to church by himself.*

III. OUR CHALLENGE

A. The faith of these four men.

1. THIS IS THE CATALYST

a. **They brought someone who was as paralytic.**

- **THEY BELIEVED THAT HE COULD BE HEALED.**

- Vs 5: "**When Jesus saw THEIR FAITH, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."**" (Jesus knows exactly what's going on)
- This text says as much about the four men who brought him as it does about the paralytic.
- **THIS MAN EXPERIENCED A MIRACLE HE WOULD NOT HAVE EXPERIENCED BUT FOR THE FAITH OF THOSE WHO BROUGHT HIM.**
- A lot of times that's the case...No great faith in those who we bring...but something happens when they're brought into the presence of God.
- They're not thinking about getting saved...then conviction/ repentance...The idea of attending church regularly...foreign to them...they start being faithful...and **THEY THEN BECOME THE THEY...BRING PEOPLE.**

b. **The newest believers are the best most fruitful evangelists.**

- [Mark 5:18-20] "*And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS, and TELL THEM what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.*"
- Imagine what kind of friends this man would have!
- Then sometime later...Jesus is back in Decapolis: [Mark 7:31-32,37] "**Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him...And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."**
- *I wonder if he, the man who had been demon possessed was the they... SEE, I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!!*

B. Why should we bring people?

1. BECAUSE WE CAN

a. **We all have a circle of people around us who are not saved who can be influenced to come if invited.**

- You never know...People we know...plus those we meet on an outreach.
- In the various texts...they brought them because they could...they knew them, they had needs they believed Jesus could help them with.

2. BECAUSE THEY NEED A MIRACLE

a. **How do people out there in all their various desperate situations with all their multiplied needs ever make it to Jesus to have those needs met?**

- **THEY MUST BE BROUGHT.**

- Won't come of their own volition.

3. BECAUSE SOMEONE BROUGHT YOU (*Have you forgotten*)

a. **What was done for us...we should be willing to do for others.**

- Eternity is at stake.

You've never heard of Albert McMakin...he worked on the Graham farm, the year was 1934, he was a Christian, and an evangelist was coming to the area named Mordacai Ham....Albert McMakin was a farm hand on the Graham farm and he invited Billy Graham to attend, who was 16 at the time, it was there he got saved. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIRACLE CAN OCCUR WHEN YOU BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH! Billy Graham preached to 215 million people during his lifetime.

- You never know what the person you bring may become.