

Better Than We Hoped For

Mark 2:1-12

What is the point of a sermon? Is it a good cure for insomnia? (that's why I'm glad to see the comfortable chairs in here. If someone is going to sleep through my sermon, at least they'll be comfortable) Or is a sermon the chance for the minister to show off his or her knowledge and study, often with the result being that the average listener believes that they couldn't possibly do the same? I hope that you've seen from my preaching up to this point that I believe that a sermon is intended to help people to understand the Bible more clearly and to give ideas as to how God's word is to impact our lives.

One of the ways in which the Bible is to impact our lives is by giving us something to share with others. However, it can be pretty hard to summarise the important points of a sermon. Rather, it can be good to learn to tell stories to others to help them get more of an idea of who Jesus is and how amazing he is.

This is what we're going to practice today through hearing the story of the crippled man who was healed by Jesus.

Primary Points

- all of the men had faith that Jesus could heal the crippled person
- the men went to effort to get the crippled person to Jesus
- Jesus seems to like it when people show some gumption to get to see him and so display their faith
- Jesus forgives the man which wasn't what the man and his friends had expected but they realised that it was what they all needed
- Jesus asks what easier, to say that the man's sins were forgiven or to tell the man to get up and walk?
- There would have been some questions asked in the crowd but it was easier to say that the man's sins were forgiven because there was no proof

- Jesus shows that he does have the authority by healing the man
- The man got up and walked out
- everyone responded with praise to God
- That message of forgiveness is what that man needed, it's what his friends needed and it's as true today as it was back then
- We all still need forgiveness which leads to healing (in relationships, in care, and in other ways)

Get people to practice telling the story to the person beside them (or in groups of three). The others in the group can help. From practicing stories here, we're better equipped to share stories with others.