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Expect Miracles

- M- Magnificence of God
- I- Insistent
- R- Resistance
- A- Acknowledging where you are really at.
- C- Confess Condition
- L- Life of Appreciation
- E- Elation

Mark 2:1-12

“Their Faith”

The Power of Influence

My mentor, Mr. Shoaff, gave me a very important warning in those early days that I'll share with you. He said, "Never underestimate the power of influence." Indeed, the influence of those around us is so powerful! Many times we don't even realize we're being strongly affected because influences generally develop over an extended period of time. Peer pressure is an especially powerful force because it is so subtle. If you're around people who spend all they make, chances are excellent you might spend all you make. If you are around people who don't read, chances are excellent that you probably won't read. People can keep nudging us off course a little at a time until, finally, we find ourselves asking, How did I get here? Those subtle influences need to be studied carefully if we really want our lives to turn out the way we've planned (Jim Rohn)

Time to Come Back

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God (1 Cor 15:33-34)

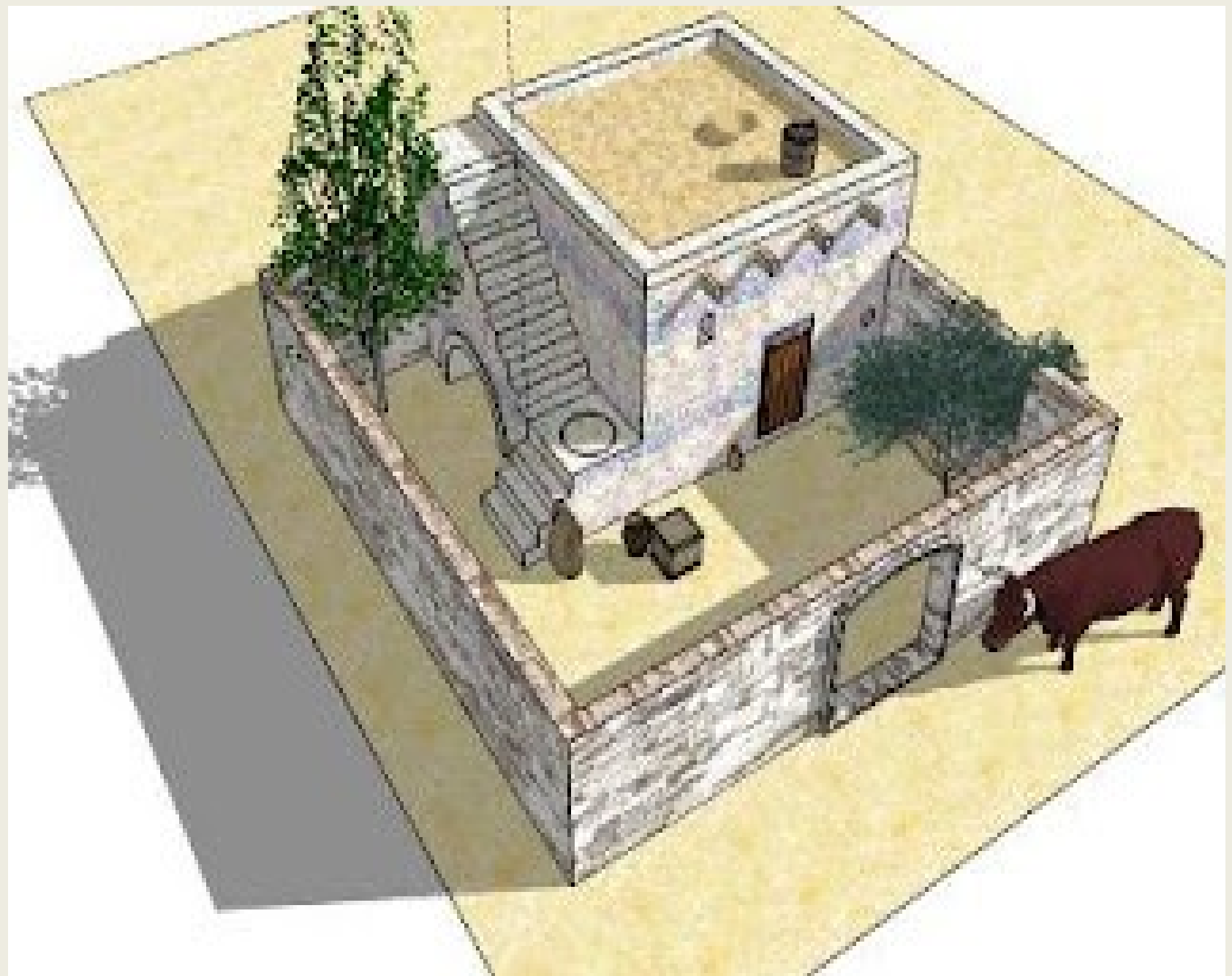
Are you going to see Jesus?

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on

(Mark 2:1-4)

Houses in Capernaum





Hey Dude, Let's get him up on
the roof and smash it in!

What's your Response?

Facts/Fears can Kill Miracles!

- Too Heavy to lower
- Too Hot
- Too High
- No Shovel/Pick axe
- Get Arrested(Damage)
- Hurt myself and Others
- Allergic to Dust (Flonase)
- Thrown out of the Synagogue
- Wait till he comes out
- He can't Heal him!
- Jesus will reject us because of vandalism
- Just one non believer! (Influence of negativity)

Self-Preservation vs. Faith!

Psychological research suggests that the negative bias influences motivation to complete a task. People have less motivation when an incentive is framed as a means to gain something than when the same incentive will help them avoid the loss of something
(Verywellmind.com)

Evil is Alive and at Work!

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me (Romans 7:14-21)

Hardwired

When you have a negative, fear based, shameful experience or an insecure thought, your mind wraps around it like velcro. When you have a positive experience, for example – when you receive a compliment or somebody affirms and congratulations you, it slides off like melted butter on a teflon skillet. Our brains are hardwired to record negative experiences and quickly forget positive experiences.

The human mind is attracted to the negative. It's why we get so caught up in gossip. It's why bad news is good for ratings. Humiliation sticks with us for days. Shame and hurt can stick with us for years. But we are not nearly as affected by the positive feedback we receive

(Dr. Rick Henson)

Drawn to Negativity

- Fear Sells (Covid, Terrorism, Crime)
- News: Bad News
- Complain
- Workplace Gossip
- Friends Gossip
- Negative Comments
- Cynical/Critical/Negate
- Only Good news (Sermon)

There's nothing so
delicious as the taste of
gossip! It melts in your
mouth.

Am I a Roof Smasher?

He saw their Faith?

A Smashing Attitude

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, nor anything else in God's whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 8: 35,39 JBP)

A Roof Smasher

- Risk Taker for Others
- Influencer
- Contagious
- Spiritual
- Looking for a new roof to smash
- No ceiling
- What's your roof?

Smashing Prices



Standing on the Roof (2010)



The Facts

- 40's
- Sold House
- Stopped 401K
- Son's Education
- Little Savings
- No Jobs
- No Missions Funding
- No Mission Team
- Opposition (leaders and friends)
- But still we went through the Roof!

After Breaking Through the Roof!

Jesus' Response

Jesus Response: “How Reckless”?



What! His Sins Are Forgiven

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?

(Mark 2:5-6)

Jesus' Concern

- His condition of his Heart (Lust, Forgive, Self)
- Thinking of Eternity
- Mobility for Life but in Hell for Eternity!
- Get Forgiven of sins is first!
- How do I view people?
- Do I look at the physical only?
- Many people are physically sound but paralyzed spiritually!
- What would Jesus say to you?
- No Shallowness (How are you doing spiritually?)

Am I Spiritually Paralyzed?

- Hurt and Cripple by Life!
- God knows your thoughts (Hopelessness/ Pride)
- Choked by Velcro!
- Immobilized for years (Emotionally/Spiritually)
- Lying there alone
- Suffering Alone
- Helpless/Hopeless
- Do my friends know my true state? (Pride)
- Stuck on my Mat (Sin, Choices, Doubt)

I Tell You, Get Up!

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Mark 2:8-12

The Power of Faith Based Friendships

“Their Faith”

Paralysis can be Slow!

But encourage one another daily,
as long as it is called Today, so that
none of you may be hardened by
sin's deceitfulness.

(Heb 3:13)

Need for Others: Stuck on your Mat!

If one falls down, his friend can
help him up. But pity the man
who falls and has no one to help
him up!

(Ecc 4:10)

Be A Motivator: Let's Go and See Jesus

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

(Heb 10:24-25 NLT)

The Power of Faith Based Friendships

- It took one with Faith and Vision (No Name)
- Called Out for Help (Small Group)
- Rallied Strangers (Nick's Party- Joe and Mona)
- Shared the Load
- Expect Obstacles
- Power of one mind and one goal
- Their Collective Faith saw a Miracle
- There are Carriers and the Crowd!
- Joint Experience (increased faith/what's next?)
- My Faith team
- What are your Friendships based on? (Social/Work/Eat)
- Faith based Relationship= Constant Miracles

Expect Miracles

- M- Magnificence of God (Jesus Can Heal)
- I- Insistent (Go up to the Roof)
- R- Resistance (Crowds/Teachers/Healed of Sin)
- A- Acknowledging where you are really at.N/A
- C- Confess Condition (None)
- L- Life of Appreciation (Walking and Forgiven)
- E- Elation (Carriers/Crowd)

We Just Grow!

When two givers indulge in a connection, it's like magic. It's alchemy. I water you, you water me, we never drain each other, we just grow
(unknown)