

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: A Paralytic
Mark 2:1-12
February 8 & 9, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. The longing for reconciliation, restoration and peace is deep and strong within us. Why is this true? Why is this desire so universal? Where are some relationships where you need reconciliation?
2. Ray said that reconciliation is such a big narrative in our lives because we, "know we've lost the one that really matters." Explain and discuss what this means.

Reconciliation: The Means

1. The friends of the paralytic in the story go to great lengths to get their friend to Jesus. What did this say about their friendship with him. What would you have thought if you were looking on at this scene?

2. The friends were acknowledged by Jesus as having faith that was both observable and sacrificial. Explain and discuss these types of faith from the story.

3. The friends knew that they didn't have power to heal their friend, but they had power to get him to Jesus. Have you had friends like this in your life? Describe what that kind of relationship is like.

4. How should the care and sacrifice of these friends inform our friendships? Are you getting your friends to Jesus? (Think about what it means to get friends to Jesus who may actually already be following him.)

Reconciliation: The Priority

1. The first words out of Jesus' mouth were, "Your sins are forgiven." Do you think that is what these men had in mind? What is Jesus communicating by doing/saying that first?

2. Ray discussed how our world/culture has lost a need for Jesus. Discuss some of the ways/instances that the world has traded other things for Christ?

3. Instead of giving us what we want, Jesus gives us peace. Have you been/are you in a relationship with God that is quid pro quo? Or, on the contrary, would you say that God is fond of you?

Reconciliation: The Price

1. The teachers of the law that were nearby during this encounter were incensed. Why were they so frustrated?
2. When was an experience in your life that you realized, before God, that you would never be able to measure up? What makes the gospel of God's grace and forgiveness such good news in these moments?
3. This discussion guide, like the sermon, began with reconciliation. Ray said that being reconciled to God is the deep healing that we need. How would you explain this idea to someone who doesn't follow Jesus?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?