

Before and After

Matthew 12:20 (NIV)

20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, . . .

Part 4

“What will you do to bring somebody to Jesus!”

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

1. The Problems that Hindered this Man

A. His Sick Condition (vs. 3)

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.

- He was paralyzed by sickness. (vs. 3)

- He was polluted by sin. (vs. 5)

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
"Son, your sins are forgiven."

B. The Selfish Crowd (vs. 2 and 4)

2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

. . . 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralytic man was lying on.

C. The Sour Critic (vs. 7)

7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

2. The People who Helped this Man

A. They were Concerned. (vs. 4a)

4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, . . .

B. They were Collective. (vs. 3)

3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.

C. They were Consumed (vs. 4)

4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralytic man was lying on.

3. The Great Physician who Healed this Man

A. The Way He heals Sickness

(vs. 2)

2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

B. The Way He Reveals Selfishness

(vs. 8)

8 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?"

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

C. The Way He Deals with Sin

(vs. 9-11)

9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."