

# Intercession Based on Compassion Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

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# What We Will Learn

- Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man
- Brought to him by some men
- That sought and found him
- Against great difficulties
- Forgave and healed the man
- Because of their faith
- Mark 2 (Matthew 9 & Luke 5)
- Other passages

# Jesus Surrounded by Large Crowd

- Jesus returned home to Capernaum
- Large crowd gathered to hear him
- Every space inside or outside was taken
- Meeting with him physically was difficult
- Mark 2:1–2

## Mark 2 (NIV)

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.

2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

# A Group of Men Brought a Paralyzed Man

- Some men brought a paralyzed man
- Carried by four of them
- To see Jesus
- They could not get in
- They lowered him to Jesus on his mat
- Through a hole they made in the roof
- Mark 2:3–4

## Mark 2 (NIV)

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

4 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.

# Jesus Responds to the Men's Faith

- When he saw their faith
- He forgave the paralyzed man
- And healed him
- Mark 2:5 & 10–12

## Mark 2 (NIV)

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

10 ... So he said to the man,

11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

12 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!”



# What the Men Did

- They had compassion on a paralyzed man
- They could not heal him themselves
- Committed to doing what they could
- Took him to Jesus
- Against great difficulties
- He saw their faith
- Forgave the man and healed him

# Compassion and Intercession

- Compassion
  - Recognize a need
  - Commit to doing what you can
  - To provide for the need
- Intercession
  - Prayer for others
  - Going to Jesus on behalf of another person
  - Effective if motivated by compassion

# Moved by Compassion to Intercede

- Their compassion
- Motivated them to intercede
- Effective if motivated by compassion
- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”  
[4<sup>th</sup> Beatitude—Matthew 5:6]
- Other examples from the bible

# Peter in Herod's Prison

## The Church Prayed for Him

- Herod put Peter in prison
- Expected to kill him after Passover
- The church prayed for him ceaselessly
- At Mary's house
- Angel released Peter from prison
- Acts 12:1–19 [Not read in session]

# Moses Intercedes for Israelites in the Desert

- God announced to Moses
- He will destroy the Israelites in the desert
- Because they rebelled against him
- Moses pleaded for mercy
- God modified the punishment
- Numbers 14:13–19

## Numbers 14 (NIV)

11 The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

## Numbers 14 (NIV)

13 Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them.

## Numbers 14 (NIV)

14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.



## Numbers 14 (NIV)

15 If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say,

16 ‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’

## Numbers 14 (NIV)

17 “Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared:

18 ‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’

## Numbers 14 (NIV)

19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.”

# Moses Intercedes for Israelites cont'd

- Moses pleaded with God
- Mercy for Israelites
- Preserve God's glory and honor
- Selfless intercession
- Characteristics of successful intercession
  - Based on compassion
  - Selfless

# Christ Responds Positively to Intercession

- If motivated by compassion
- Selfless
- Delivered with faith
- Centurion for his servant [Matthew 8:5–13]
- A ruler for his daughter [Matthew 9:18–26]
- Group of men for a paralyzed man

# What We Learned

- Intercession is praying for others
- Succeeds if motivated by compassion
- Persistent (ceaseless)
- Selfless
- Focused on others
- And on God
- Delivered with faith