

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 40

Lesson Title: Bring a Friend With You
Take Home Point: Friends bring friends to Jesus.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you have always suffered from poor vision – even with glasses or contacts everything is fuzzy during the day and you can hardly see at night. You can't drive or read or enjoy visual delights. Then a relative tells you of someone who can help you with a new procedure. You take a chance and call the doctor. The waiting list is long, but you are so desperate to have it done that you make the appointment and wait. Finally the day comes. The results are miraculous! You can see clearly for the first time, and it is wonderful! Now also imagine you have family and friends who suffer from the same malady. Do you tell them about your doctor and the procedure, or keep it to yourself? What do you think?!?

Read: Luke 5:17-26

Observation (What happened?):

What two things did Jesus do for the paralyzed man?

What was the response of everyone who saw the man healed?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Jesus first say, "Your sins are forgiven?" Do you think anyone was expecting that?

What was wrong with the response of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

Insight:

So what was wrong with the response of the Jewish leaders? First, they gave no consideration to the paralyzed man's condition; they were without compassion. Jesus confronted them about this throughout his ministry. Second, they refused to believe who Jesus was even with the evidence he presented. This eventually led them to murder the Son of God. Third, they boxed God in. As their tradition and religious legal code expanded and solidified, it didn't simply interpret Scripture, it superseded Scripture. So, by their own rulebook, these men limited God and his power to what they said could be done and when it could be done. Jesus challenged this in Luke 11:42 and 46: *"...you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God...you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."*(NIV) We need to be careful we don't develop or acquire the self-righteous attitudes they demonstrated to the detriment of God's Kingdom.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know your sins are forgiven?

Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus? How can you tell that person this week?

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