

What Type of Impact Are You Making?

– *Mark 2:1-12*

➤ **The Bible has much to say about friends:**

- How to attain friends → Proverbs 18:24 – “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”
- Love of a friend → Proverbs 17:17 – “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”
- Faithfulness of a friend → Proverbs 27:6 – “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
- They can make us stronger and wiser → Proverbs 27:17 – “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

➤ **The Bible also talks about our influence & the importance of truly impacting others throughout lives.**

- Matthew 5 – Salt of the earth / Light of the world

➤ **In this passage of scripture this evening, we are able to see each of these attributes in the life of a man who was born paralyzed.**

READ SCRIPTURE

➤ **Anywhere that Jesus went, He drew a crowd:**

- Some just wanted to be a part of the crowd.
- Some wanted to see what He would do next.
- Some needed a touch from Jesus.
- Some just came to criticize & cause controversy.

➤ **Up until this particular time in the ministry of Jesus, He had been mostly involved in trying to show the people that He cared for them and wanted to minister to their physical and material needs.**

➤ **But now He begins to dig deeper into their lives and show them their sin sickness and that their most important need was not their physical sickness, but their need of a Savior.**

➤ **In this passage, we see several types of individuals, and my question to each of us this evening is “What Type Of Impact Are You Making?”**

1. **One Who Gets In The Way Of Others (v. 2,4)**

a. **The crowd was only concerned about themselves.**

- i. This crowd had gathered and though their intent to see Jesus was good, they were consumed with only their own needs being met.
- ii. There are times in our life where we neglect the needs of others, especially our friends, because we are so consumed with:
 1. Our own lives
 2. Our own schedules
 3. Our own feelings
 4. Our own wants
- iii. If we are ever going to be effective in our witness & show the love of Christ through our lives, we have to first get past ourselves.

b. **They were getting in the way for those in need.**

- i. Lets face it. These people were here for a show.
 1. There were curious as to what Jesus would stir up now.
 2. They were looking to see what kind of miracle he would perform.

ii. And just b/c they came to see Jesus, many of them came for the wrong reason and this prevented other from getting the healing that they desperately needed.

1. It is so important that we serve God for the right reasons so that we will have the right:

- a. attitude (Your attitude tomorrow might hinder/help someone come to Jesus.
- b. Actions
- c. Lifestyle

2. It is these things that will help us to either live the right example and bring others closer to Christ, or it will cause us to get in the way of them being able to see Christ.

2. One Who Criticizes (v.6-7)

a. Some came to stir up controversy.

i. The scribes were a group who felt as though their teaching was sufficient and did not like this Jesus coming in on their territory, taking the attention away from them.

ii. These men were not interested in listening to Jesus nor were they interested in helping this man with his need. Their only concern was their traditional teachings and the way that things used to be.

1. This is the Christians who complain about:

- a. The paint in the church being the wrong color.
- b. People dressing too casually for church.
- c. The singing is not long enough and the sermons are too long.
- d. Why we don't have programs like other churches.

2. Instead of criticizing the church and the work that is being done, what we should be worried about is making sure we are doing our part to further the ministry & to impact the world for Christ.

b. They judged not only this man, but Jesus.

i. The scribes took offense to the words of Jesus and His claim that He was the Son of God.

ii. They questioned not only His ability to forgive this man's sins, but also His ability to heal him.

1. Jesus quieted all of the critics after He forgave the man's sins when he told him to gather up his bed and walk.

3. One Who Brings Others To Christ (v.3-5)

a. They saw his physical need.

i. They were concerned about their friend.

1. These were not some "fair weather" friends. Apparently they had been close to him for some time.

2. They had a special bond. They helped him take care of his daily needs.

3. They could see the pain in his life and they wanted more than anything to do something about it.

ii. They put their faith into action.

1. They could have just said, "Well Brother, we will pray for you", and that would have been OK.

a. It is important for us to pray with our friends about needs in their life, don't get me wrong. But there is a broader picture I want you to see here.

2. They could have said, "We will be on the lookout for any new Dr.'s in town and see if they can help you out."

a. Again, there are times where we can help others out ourselves whether financially, taking them to the Dr. or physically helping them out of a situation, and that is great.

3. The bigger picture is, these guys had put their faith in God.

a. You can almost hear them saying, "if He is good enough for us, He is

good enough for our friend.”

4. They were determined to do whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus.
 - a. If it meant costing them some of their personal time, they would give it.
 - b. If it meant costing them financially, they were willing to pay.
 - c. Even if it meant their friend making fun of them, they were still willing to show him to Christ.

b. Jesus saw his spiritual need.

- i. It's interesting that Jesus only met his physical need after He first met his spiritual need. Why?
 1. This was a terrible sickness that had completely transformed his life from the norm.
 2. This is something that affected him & he had to live with every single day of his life.
- ii. And as tragic and heartbreaking as this disease was, Jesus needed for him to realize that paralysis was not his most important need. His relationship with God is what mattered most.
 1. It is so easy for us to get consumed with our circumstances and say “Lord, I need you to change this situation in my life right now”, or “Lord, things are not going according to my plan right now, so I need you to step in and change it.”
 2. Our physical needs often times cause us great pain or at least discomfort in our lives.
 - a. Marital problems
 - b. Job situations
 - c. Financial problems
 - d. Physical sickness
- iii. Before God ever seeks to meet our physical need, He always desires to first meet our spiritual need.
 1. Perhaps today you have something in your life that needs a touch from God.
 - a. Family
 - b. Finances
 - c. Job
 - d. Life in general
 - e. You
 2. Maybe today you have a “head knowledge” of Jesus, but you need a heart knowledge of Him.
 3. Perhaps today you need to demonstrate a greater faith and dependence on Him by bringing your circumstances to God.
- iv. Maybe it will require our will to be changed to His will for our life.

- **You may have some close friends in your life, but the Bible tells us there is a friend that sticketh closer than a Brother.**
- **You may be honored to have some of the friends that you have, but there is NO greater honor than being called a “friend of God”.**