

Second Sunday 8th August 2021

2 figures meeting – thank you

Reminder last month – traffic lights to represent Zaccheus as one of many who met Jesus and was changed. Have we managed to stop, think, change our thoughts and habits?

Next 2 or 3 months again thinking about people who met Jesus and were changed.

First of all – what are we afraid of / what are we anxious about? Ideas? spiders, mice, rats,

Hidden fears – answering the phone, speaking in a group, meeting others, giving a talk

What are the things that emotionally paralyse us?

Relationships? Friendships? Low self-esteem – remember from a few months ago that we are CHOSEN / we are SPECIAL

Isaiah 41:10 – The Message

Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

Mark 2:1-12 NIV Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

2 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. **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. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7** "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

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? **9** Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? **10** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." 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!"

TALK

Lego house – challenge to make a house without a roof

Concentrate to begin with on the Friends – heard about Jesus. Loved their friend and wanted him to get better / to be healed.

What did they do? Took him to Jesus. Overcame all obstacles

Like the 4 friends - Have we helped someone else to meet Jesus? Can we get to know Jesus and to be able to 'take' others to Jesus? Have we 'taken' anyone to Jesus? Billy Graham story – Albert McMakin

Albert McMakin 'took' a friend who wasn't interested in Jesus to a Christian meeting. Albert asked his friend to drive the bus. This friend went in to the meeting and was captivated about what he heard about Jesus and became a Christian. His name was Billy Graham! We have heard of him but not Albert McMakin. We may never know who we 'take' to Jesus.

What were the barriers to physically getting to Jesus – crowd / roof

What are our barriers to getting close to Jesus?

Fear, not feeling good enough, don't recognise the reality of Jesus, lack of faith, really hard idea to believe in someone you can't see

What did Jesus say to the man? *MARK Son I forgive your sins*

He was also impressed with the faith and the belief of the 4 friends. *MARK When Jesus saw their faith*

Then we get to the Pharisees – winged / outraged. Only God can forgive sins. Do we get outraged / winged sometimes? They were distracted by their own self-importance

Do we get distracted from knowing God better because we put ourselves first?

Do we winged when things don't always go the way we think it should?

Jesus looks at what is in the INSIDE of the man, the heart of the paralysed man. He knows through the Holy Spirit what is going on in the man's life and what is stopping him getting up to walk.

Can you IMAGINE how wonderful it would be if Jesus walked right up the aisle now and said "Your sins are forgiven or you are set free from your fears."

I think we would be singing and dancing and joyful. Would we believe him? The paralysed man certainly did and I am sure walked out joyfully. *MARK This amazed everyone and they praised God*

The fact is that of course through the Holy Spirit, Jesus does just that and walks up to us and says "Your sins are forgiven / you can be set free." Do we go out into the town full of joy?

The paralysed man met Jesus and changed.

Challenge – have we met Jesus/ have we changed / have we accepted forgiveness / have we accepted healing / have we let go of our fears?

Let's look at the Lego house – No roof / barrier so we can get to Jesus

No roof / no barrier so that the Holy Spirit can be welcomed into our lives

Let us spend some quiet time talking to God giving him our fears, worries, doubts and imagine our friends are taking us to Jesus to meet him for the first time or renewing our relationship with him.

MUSIC

Verses to Help Overcome Fears and Worries so we do not have to be 'paralysed'

31. "For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs." Zephaniah 3:17