

SUPER FRIENDS

(Scripture: Mark 2:1-12)

INTRODUCTION:

As we read this account, we see a cross section of humanity.

We see people as we would find them every place.

We see the helpless, the helpers, and the hinderers.

The picture is as vivid today as it was back then.

We have the same classes of people today.

Let us consider them and compare.

I. THE HELPLESS MAN (verse 3a)

A. This poor fellow was an object of pity.

He had lost the power to move himself.

He had to depend on friends to move him from place to place.

He was a paralytic.

Many times nowadays we see those who excite our pity.

Being moved with compassion, we want to help.

An example is this man in Mark 2.

He was even more than a paralytic, he was a sinner.

B. He is a representative man.

He represents men that are sick with sin.

C. Sin is a disease.

It makes men inert (idle).

“Destitute of the power of moving itself”.

Sin can keep us from doing the things we should.

Sin can paralyze us.

II. THE HELPERS (verse 3b-4)

The friends of the helpless man could not heal, but they brought their friend to the One who could.

Likewise, we cannot save sinners, but we can bring them to the Savior.

➤ Characteristics of Helpers:

- *Faith in the Healer.*

They believed enough to go to great effort to help them reach Jesus.

- *Love for the Afflicted Man.*

They truly wanted to help.

- *Spirit of Cooperation.*

They worked together. (2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 5:6)

- *Determination.*

They removed the roof, overcoming the obstacle. (Rom. 1:15)

➤ Object of the Helpers:

- Their object was to bring their friend to Christ.
- No person is nearer to the Lord than a soul winner.

III. THE HINDERERS

Two groups of them.

- *The Passive.* (verse 2)

They stood at the door, blocking the way.

They meant no harm, but hindered a good work.

They represent a self-seeking, self-serving group, who are unmindful of the needs of the lost.

- *The Active.* (verses 6-7)

They were the cold fault-finding critics.

They were just looking for flaws.

They were trying to find something to criticize.

They were malicious men.

We too have many of them today that are keeping people from the Son of God by their fault-finding.

They find fault with the teachings of Jesus.

We also have those who find fault with those who are trying to be helpers.

IV. THE HEALER (verses 5, 10-11)

There are many helpless people, but only one healer.

He is our great physician. Matt. 8:9-13.

- *He is sympathetic.*

He never turned a man away who came to him for help.

- *He has the authority.*

He had the power to perform miracles, as proven by this example.

Matt. 28:18. Given of God.

- *He has the remedy.*

He healed men.

He sent His Word to heal men.

They have the power to save. Rom. 1:16.

CONCLUSION:

Which one are you?

Obviously, you cannot be the healer, for there is only one, that is, Jesus Christ!

Are you the helpless person?

Then you should be seeking the healer, trying to find out what to do to have your sins forgiven.

Are you the hinderers?

If you are, then you should resolve today to stop hindering others to know the truth.

Or are you the helper?

If you are, then you should be helping others bring them to Christ.

Remember, one of the primary work of the church is to bring “sin sick souls” to Christ.