

## Go In or Give Up?

### I. Slide #1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide #2 Kosovo H.S. Mission Trip Fundraiser:** (see bulletin)
1. **Slide #3** Last time Pstr Rick brought one; **then** Andrew submitted his.
- B. **Slide #4 Questions: Paul & Suzanne Luciani** missionaries on their way to Spain.
1. (P) **Explain your next grand adventure, what are you doing?**
  2. **Slide #5 (S) Why Spain?**
  3. (P) The church understands, “church planting” **or** “starting a Bible College”...**explain “Pastoral Care w/Latin Missionaries, working in the Muslim world”.**
  4. (P) **Regarding support, where are you guys at now regarding your \$ target? Does this determine when you’re going?**
  5. **Slide #6 (S) Partnership?** Define what you’d like to see if someone wants to come alongside & be a “partner”.
    - a) **Slide #7 The kids: Raquel** (@ John Brown Univ); **Gabe(16) & Priscilla(12).**
    - b) **They will be in info booth after.**

### II. Slide #8 **Intro:**

- A. **News swelled around Capernaum.** Peters mother-in-law was **healed**; many others were **healed**, the demon possessed **exorcised**; even a leper was made **spot free!**
1. **Hope again washed ashore this little lakeside village of Capernaum...because Jesus was “in the house”!**

### III. Slide #9 **PREACHING WITH DIVINE DISTRACTIONS! (1,2)**

- A. **What was he preaching?** – Current events? 10 ways to be a better person? How to grow a successful business? Capitalism & Christianity? How to gather a crowd?...**No**, He preached **the word** to them.
1. This word Preached **isn’t** one of the 2 most common Greek words used, “to proclaim, **or to bring good tidings**”. - **Instead** it is **λαλεω** “to speak”. **It means a conversation, or a conversational kind of tone.**
  2. Listen every Small Group Leader...The Jesus Style was **simple, down-to-earth, an easy-to-understand conversational language!**
- B. And right in the middle of Jesus teaching the word we are interrupted with a divine distraction(see vs.3)...**Then they came!** Who? What?

### IV. Slide #10 **GO IN OR GIVE UP? (3-5)**

- A. **Slide #11 A Paralytic** – Life for him was pretty much reduced to a **horizontal** one.

1. **No** Assisted Living like **Murrieta Gardens** down the street. **No** skilled nursing facility like **Country Villa** on the corner. **No Rancho Physical Therapy**. **No** miracle drug. **No** medical breakthroughs. **No** specialist. **No** Orthopedic **nor** Neurosurgeon.
  - a) Life as he knew it was a **3'x6' pallet prison!** (bedroll, mat, poor man's bed)
2. His life, in his culture & time period, could be summed up to "**dependency, humiliation, confinement, boredom, loneliness, frustration, & despair.**"...until this special day!

B. **Slide #12 Four Men & a Brainstorm!**

C. Ok they were *latecomers*...but **faith** brought them!

1. **Do we go in or give up?**
2. **They weren't put off by** the crowd of people thronging the front door.
  - a) How often I hear of people being put off coming to church because "*the parking lot was full*" ...How sad!
3. **They didn't use the excuse**, "*It must not be the Lord*" when they couldn't get in the front door.
4. **They could have said**, "*Well, we got him this far.*" "*We tried.*"
5. **They weren't put off by** the crowd of people that shooed & shushed them away! - They thought hmmm... "*The outside stairs!!!*"
  - a) **Slide #13,14** **Explain homes**: Flat roof. Formed by beams & rafters, across which matting, branches, & twigs, were covered by earth, then packed hard.
  - b) **And so we have light** starting to stream in. **Eight hands** digging through the roof. **Dust** everywhere. People **coughing**. **Dirt** particles fallin on the religious leaders *Armani suits!*

D. **Slide #15 Jesus saw their faith!** - **Not** the paralytic's faith(that we know of), **but** the *Faithful Fab Four's Fantastic Phenomenal Faith!*

1. This was **risky!** **They could fall.** **Worse**, they could **drop** him.
2. **Jesus saw** persistent, creative, & sacrificial faith!
3. **Jesus saw** 4 sweaty men willing to *put a shoulder* to their faith!
4. **Jesus saw** a faith that **laughs at barriers!**
  - a) **Slide #16** Philip Yancey, *Faith is believing in **advance** what will only make sense in **reverse***
5. **But wait...they tore up** someone's roof, **interrupted** a home bible study, & **inconvenienced** everyone else that was listening.
  - a) Well, Jesus did say, regarding his kingdom, "*the violent take it by force.*" Mt.11:12
  - b) **See**, faith does these things. **Faith is unconventional.** Faith does the **unexpected.** **And Faith gets God's attention :)**

6. **Slide #17** What's more important a roof or a man? (They weren't asking, does he have homeowners insurance)
- Maybe they fixed it after. Actually, it would be pretty easy to do.
  - Too many people are more interested in the **place** or the **program** instead of the **people!**
    - So, when they're confronted with the decision *Go in or give up?* They take the later.
7. Pastor Ray Stedman uncovered their names: *Frank Faith, Harry Hope, Larry Love, & Dan Determination.*
- Frank Faith** said, "I **believe** we can get this man to Jesus."
  - Harry Hope** said, "I believe there is **hope** for this man"
  - Larry Love** said, "I really **love** this guy. I hate his sin, but **love** him."
  - Dan Determination** said, "**Let's roll!**"

E. **Slide #18 Who will Bring Them?**

F. Many people will **never come** to Jesus *unless* somebody **brings them!**

G. The bible doesn't say anywhere that **sinner**s are to come to **church**, *Everywhere* in the bible it is clear **the church** is to go where **sinner**s are!

- We are to be engaged in going out where sp cripples are & bringing them to Jesus!
- I love the fact that any morning down the street at Starbucks we have a number of people from church there. What a great opportunity to associate with our neighbors of our community.
  - In our *So Cal culture*, this seems to be our "gate to the city" our "1st century well." [Where people hung out, talked, caught up, & visited]
    - Strike up conversations with people.

H. **Slide #19 Caring for Shut-Ins!**

I. The *paralytic's friends* provided a model for **caring for shut-ins!**

J. What are some **practical ways** we can follow their example?

- Do you know anyone that is bed ridden? Anyone in a convalescent home? Anyone in the hospital? Anyone lonely?
- Take them communion! Bring them Worship! Take them Prayer! Take them a *Daily Bread* devotional! Show them how to listen in on the radio or online! Take them a worship CD! Take them a short bible study!
- Go out & find someone to minister to. "But people are too busy!" Then go do Prison or hospital visitation; or to a Convalescent home.
  - Just go to where people are! Find a need & meet it.
- We need to "*raise some roofs*" in order to get people to Jesus!

5. We need to do some difficult, out-of-the-ordinary, irregular things.
- a) May our Motto be...*No crowd too thick; no stairs too steep; no wall too high to climb; no roof too thick!* [Or sing...*There ain't no **mountain** high enough, Ain't no **valley** low enough, ain't no **river** wide enough To keep me from getting to you]*

K. Slide #20 **The Prince meets the Paralytic!**

- L. The Prince meets the Paralytic & the face of God smiles & says, “**Be of good cheer/ courage!**” (in Mt.9:2) then, “**Son, your sins are forgiven you!**”
- Doctors estimate that **50%** of all **physical** sickness comes from **emotional & spiritual** problems: *bitterness in spirit, an unforgiving spirit, holding grudges.*
    - The most easily identified is probably the “**ulcer**” which are **not** caused by what you are eating but by what is eating you!
  - The problem** you are facing today is **not** your wife or husband, **not** your boss, & **not** your parents. **Your problem is sin.**

V. Slide #21 **SPECTATING SPIES! (6-12)** [or Creepy Critics!]

- A. Slide #22a **Sitting there?** – They could jumped up & lifted a hand. – **Here were the *real* paralytics!**
- B. (8b) **Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?** - Imagine this morning here in church, the person in front of you...turns around right now & points to you & asks, “**Why did you just think that thought?**”
- How scary to have your mind & heart read!** [further proof of who He was]
  - But now Jesus is about to **trap the trappers!**
    - No matter how many times **Wile E. Coyote** tried to trap the **Road Runner** in all his **ACME traps**...He always ended up in his own trap!
- C. Slide #22b **Their Reasoning went like this:** If this Jesus claims the power to **forgive** sins. **And**, only **God** can forgive sin. **Therefore**, Jesus just claimed to be God!
- Precisely the point.** Their reasoning was exact...**but** it didn't bring them to Christ.
  - “If that **hole in the roof** teaches us anything, it's that **faith** is what brings a person to Jesus, **not** intellectual reasoning's. **Curiosity** crowded the classroom, **but** it was **faith** that dug through the roof to bring the paralytic to the feet of Christ.”<sup>1</sup>
- D. Slide #22c **Which is easier?** – Both are easy to **say**. **But** both are equally impossible to **do**... **unless** of course...you are God!
- In that case one is **as easy** as the other!

<sup>1</sup> Ken Gire, Incredible Moments, pg.25.

2. Any **Charlatan** or **snake charmer** could **say**, “your sins are forgiven!”
3. Jesus does here, what **NO** mortal man can do... *forgive sins!*
  - a) **No person, no priest, no pastor, no denomination can do this!**
4. Jesus, so moved by this faith, **applauds it**, if not with his hands, with his **heart**.<sup>2</sup>
  - a) **And you & I get to witness a *divine loveburst!***

E. **Slide #22d What is Christianity?** What is the **distinctive** thing that Christianity has to proclaim to men? – *The forgiveness of sin!*

1. The **healing** of the **body** is a great miracle, **but** it does not last.
2. *The forgiveness of sin* is God’s greatest miracle, **for** it **lasts forever & accomplishes the greatest good!**
  - a) “God’s goal isn’t to do a **patchwork** job on our lives...He came to make us **whole!**”<sup>3</sup>
3. **Spiritual healing** is of much more value than a **physical one**. When Jesus heals a person’s **spirit** in salvation, **there is also** the healing of *bitterness, hatred, lust, anger, gossip, & the like*.
4. **Physical paralysis** is terrible, **but worse yet** is **spiritual paralysis!**
  - a) **We are all *spiritual cripples*.**
  - b) **We are all *Mephibosheth’s*** (Saul’s grandson) who was crippled!
    - (1) **His nurse was fleeing during war time with the baby & fell & dropped him.**
  - c) **We are all *spiritual cripples*** because of a fall. **When Adam & Eve fell the whole human race fell.**
    - (1) **For when we were still w/o strength<sub>[crippled]</sub>, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**<sup>4</sup>

F. **Slide #22e How do you picture them departing?** - I picture 5 grown men, arm-in-arm, laughing, even skipping down the street, w/tears of joy streaming down their cheeks!

- G. (12a) **Note: he doesn’t wobble like a newborn colt.** Showing not only was the **paralysis gone**, **but muscles** had been **strengthened**.
1. The crowd that **refused him entrance**, **now parts like the Red Sea in amazement**, to make way for **his exit!**
  2. **The bed that carried him, he now carried.** Once the sign of his **sickness**, **now** the sign of his **cure!**
    - a) **Like the man who’s **money** was his life. It was his only interest. It was all he lived for. **Money** was the sign of his **sickness**. Then he gets saved & starts using his money to**

<sup>2</sup> Max Lucado, Mark, pg.22.

<sup>3</sup> Warren Wiersbe, pg.656

<sup>4</sup> Romans 5:6

serve Jesus & get people to Jesus. The sign of his **sickness** is now the sign of his **cure!**

H. **Slide #22f** Has Jesus ever said to you, “Your sins are forgiven?”

I. A little boy had disobeyed his mother, he got out his slate chalkboard & wrote, “*Mom, I’m sorry I was bad. If you forgive me, wipe this out.*” The next time he came by, his mother had wiped it clean.

1. Jesus has promised to do exactly that for you.

2. **Slide #23** Even better, Job says, **My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You cover (plaster over) my iniquity.** (Job 14:17)