



## TENACIOUS FRIENDSHIP

SERMON #3 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of September 26, 2021

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Big Idea: Be a friend who's willing to break the rules.

Discussion Questions:

In this story, the man wanted to be healed. He did walk home with new legs, but also with the forgiveness of sins.

1. Has there been a time in your life when you asked God for something, and he gave you something greater? Has there been a time when he gave you what you needed in addition to what you wanted?
2. The 'mat' in the story can represent a burden we carry with us, something we try to hide, or hold back. We all have a mat. What is yours? What is the thing, you try so hard to avoid, mask, and not let others see for fear they won't come any closer? What has happened before when you've let people in?
3. Who is helping you carry your mat? Whose mat are you carrying?
4. What tips people off that we're followers of Jesus? What betrays our Christianity? Does our love for the world make others look at us and want to know Jesus?

Action Steps:

1. How can you be praying for your neighbors? This week be intentional about praying for our neighbors together. Ask someone this week, "How can I be praying for you?" It will take a little bit of boldness, but it opens the door to some AMAZING things. After asking the question, pray over the situation or person in your quiet time.
2. SAVE the date to serve: October 9 with and for community neighbors!  
*Details and registration will be on TheWocc.com*

## Tenacious Friendship Sermon Content Review:

Notes:

I think we all have that one friend who is willing to get into a little bit of trouble. Sometimes they are willing to break the law, or they are just willing to come when you call. Back in the day, we called them "ride or die" friends. These are the people who are always ready to do whatever it takes to cheer you up, spend time with you or help you in some way. These are the men or women who you call when you're struggling with pain, when you have to move furniture, when you've ended a relationship, or when you've lost a loved one to death. These are true friends who are there for you no matter what happens. And the truest of these friends are the people who are willing to do whatever it takes to help you find full life in Jesus.

Jesus challenged all of us to love one another and this means being a friend who is willing to go whatever lengths to bring people into relationship with His father. This is what these men were doing as they brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus. They were willing to do whatever they needed to do, even as far as to ruin the home of someone, to get their friend healed and back on the path. These men believed in Jesus and His power and as a result they knew their friend needed this interaction.

So, the question to ask is do you have this faith and belief in the Father to be willing to be a "ride or die" friend for the people in your lives?

This is beyond just allowing people to make mistakes and just be there to support, but it means being willing to be tenacious, vulnerable, and honest with these people in our lives.

This means being willing to admit your own flaws and pains so that you might be able to help bear the burdens of those people in your life. We often think that we can't change people, and that isn't necessarily untrue, but our faith and devotion to Jesus can be the inspiration to help create like change in people around us.

**Gospel:** Jesus says *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you."* John 15:12-14. And here is the truth, Jesus loved us all so much that he was willing to take his friendship to a new level: death. Jesus is the ultimate example of being willing to pick up his friend's mats and bring them to the place of his father. He was willing to do whatever it took to make sure you and I were met with healing and forgiveness.

REFERENCE: <https://national.cc/media/neighbor>