

JESUS CAN _____

JESUS CAN CHANGE LIVES

Matthew 9:1-8

- Today we celebrate Mothers - birth mothers, step mothers, foster mothers, “stand-in-the-gap” mothers, spiritual mothers and other mothers.
- Good mothers, fathers, grandparents, family and friends want to see the people they love rescued from struggles and strongholds and living transformed lives.
- *“Some people brought to Him (Jesus) a paralyzed man on a mat.”* (Matthew 9:2)
- There are people around us who are paralyzed physically, emotionally, relationally and spiritually - but Jesus can heal them all.
- *“Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and He cast out many demons.”* (Mark 1:34)
- **What steps can we take to get the “paralyzed people” around to Jesus so He can change their lives, circumstances and relationships?**

Seeing People’s Lives Transformed Requires:

CARING ABOUT HURTING PEOPLE

- *“Some people brought to Him (Jesus) a paralyzed man on a mat.”* (Matthew 9:2)
- **Jesus cares about hurting people.**
- *“Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching and preaching the Good News . . . , and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. When He saw the crowds, He felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless.”* (Matthew 9:35-36 NCV)
- **We should care about people like Jesus did, and like the paralyzed man’s friends did (Mark 2:1-5).**
- Jesus - *“You must be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.”* (Luke 6:36)
- *“Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone.”* (Galatians 6:10)
- **If we’re going to be like Jesus and the paralyzed man’s friends, we’re going to care about people’s physical, emotional, financial, relational and spiritual needs - and we’re going to do all we can to bring them to Jesus.**
- **Who are some hurting people I know that I need to get connected to Jesus?**

Seeing People’s Lives Transformed Requires:

LIVING BY FAITH

- *“Some people brought to Him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, ‘Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.’”* (Matthew 9:2)
- **Faith is a belief that the Lord can do anything, and it’s a quality we all need.**
- *“It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”* (Hebrews 11:6)
- **Faith is something that must be demonstrated in our lives.**
- *“What good is it . . ., if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? . . . Faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”* (James 2:14, 17)
- **Jesus is moved by our faith (Matthew 9:2).**
- Jesus - *“Because of your faith it will happen.”* (Matthew 9:29)
- ***In what areas of my life do I need to develop and demonstrate more faith in the Lord?***

Seeing People’s Lives Transformed Requires:

DEMONSTRATING DETERMINATION

- *“They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above His head.”* (Mark 2:4)
- **Life is full of obstacles that we must determinedly overcome as we seek to live for the Lord and bring people to the Lord.**
- *“Don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.”* (Galatians 6:9)
- *“Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan ‘press on’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.”* (Calvin Coolidge)
- *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV)
- ***In what areas of my life do I need to become more determined?***

Seeing People’s Lives Transformed Requires:

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

- *“Some people brought to Him (Jesus) a paralyzed man on a mat.”* (Matthew 9:2)
- *“They lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.”* (Mark 2:4)
- ***Why do we need to prioritize getting people to Jesus?***
- **Jesus has the power to *Forgive People’s Sins.***
 - *“Jesus said to the paralyzed man, ‘Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.’”* (Matthew 9:2)
 - **The Pharisees were concerned about Jesus’ words because they knew only God can forgive sins.**
 - *“God purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.”* (Ephesians 1:7)
- **Jesus has the power to *Read People’s Minds.***

- *“Some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, ‘That’s blasphemy! Does He think He’s God?’ Jesus knew what they were thinking, so He asked them, ‘Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts?’”* (Matthew 9:3-4)
- **We need to remember that the Judge of all humanity (John 5:25-26) knows what we’re thinking and what we’re doing.**
- *“Lord, You have examined me and know all about me. . . . You know my thoughts even before I think them.”* (Psalm 139:1-2 TLB)
- **Jesus has the power to *Heal People’s Sicknesses*.**
 - *“Jesus asked them, . . . ‘Is it easier to say “Your sins are forgiven,” or “Stand up and walk”? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.’ Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!’ And the man jumped up and went home!”* (Matthew 9:5-7)
 - **Jesus can heal and deliver people from any sickness or stronghold.**
 - Jesus - *“Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen — the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.”* (Matthew 11:4-5)
- **Jesus has the power to *Change People’s Lives*.**
 - *“The man jumped up and went home!”* (Matthew 9:7)
 - **The Lord can change anyone and everyone regardless of what they’ve done or how they’ve lived.**
 - *“Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled by others and became slaves to many wicked desires and evil pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy. We hated others, and they hated us. But then God our Savior showed us His kindness and love. He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of His mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.”* (Titus 3:3-5)
- *“Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.”* (Matthew 9:8)
- **What the people in the crowd didn’t know that day was that although Jesus was indeed human, He was more than human; He was and is God’s Son who is able to forgive every sin, read every mind, heal every sickness and change every life.**
- Jesus – *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”* (Luke 4:18 NKJV)
- **What do I need for Jesus to do for me or for others today, and what steps do I need to take to help others connect to the Lord?**