

Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church

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Hour of Power

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

“DON’T LOSE CONTACT WITH UNBELIEVERS”

THE PARALYTIC IS FORGIVEN AND HEALED

❖ DID SOMEONE CARE ENOUGH ABOUT YOU TO HELP YOU COME TO CHRIST? (**Matthew 9: 1-8, Mark 2:1-12**)

- ❖ God want us to be like Jesus Christ
 - a. A friend to sinners
 - b. Have compassion for the for the physical and spiritual needs of others
 - c. Spend time with unbelievers
 - d. Relationship evangelism enables the Holy Spirit to draw people into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

After getting into a boat and crossing the Sea of Galilee into Capernaum that was where Jesus had his base of operation. It was a wealthy city because of fishing and trade. The city had a large population and housed the Roman garrison that kept peace in the region. The city was a cultural melting pot that was greatly influenced by the Greek and Roman manners, dress, architecture and politics.

When the people heard Jesus had come home to Capernaum they gathered in large numbers and there wasn’t any room inside or outside the house.

- ❖ Jesus preached the Word to them
- ❖ The four men had compassion for the paralyzed man
- ❖ Four men made an opening in the roof and lowered the paralyzed man down into the room where Jesus was
- ❖ When Jesus saw their faith, He said son, your sins are forgiven
- ❖ The teachers of the law said in their hearts, only God can forgive sins
- ❖ Jesus knew what the teachers of the law were thinking in their heart
 - ❖ Jesus told them, I want you to know that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sin
 - ❖ Jesus said to the man, get up, take your mat and go home
 - ❖ The man got up, took his mat and walked into full view of everyone.

JESUS EATS WITH SINNERS AT MATTHEW'S (LEVI'S) HOUSE) (MATTHEW 9: 9-13), MARK 2: 13-17)

Capernaum was also a thriving business community. Several major highways intersected in Capernaum, with merchants passing through from as far away as Egypt to the south, and Mesopotamia to the north. Levi was a Jew who worked for the Roman's as the area's tax collector, collecting taxes from citizens and also from merchants passing through the city. Tax collectors were expected to take a commission on the taxes they collected. Most of them overcharged the taxpayers making themselves very rich in the process. Tax collectors were hated by the Jews because of their reputation for cheating and supporting Rome.

- Jesus saw Levi sitting at his tax collecting booth and told Levi to **Follow Him**
- Immediately Levi got up and followed Jesus
- Jesus and his disciples ate dinner at Levi's house with other tax collectors and sinners
- The self-righteous Pharisees were highly upset that Jesus would eat with sinners
- Jesus gladly associated with sinners because He knew they needed to hear what He had to say
- Jesus spent time with whoever needed to hear His message
- We need to be friends to those who do not appear to be ideal to be friends

A WORD OF CAUTION

If we find ourselves slipping spiritually when we are around unbelievers, we must do whatever is appropriate to maintain our spiritual health.

REMEMBER

JESUS CHRIST *INFLUENCED* THE SINNERS. THEY DIDN'T INFLUENCE HIM.

Scriptures to meditate on and memorize

Colossians 1:13

Luke 19:10

I Peter 3:15

Jude 22-23

Luke 22:32

II Timothy 4:18

OUR PRAYER

God, give us two kinds of relationships – a close relationship with believers who can stimulate us spiritually and contact with unbelievers who we can introduce to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Sources: Evangelism Study Bible
Life Application Bible (NIV)