

# together

WE PRAY. WE GIVE. WE GO.

## PASTOR'S SERMON PROMPTS: TOGETHER WE PRAY, GIVE & GO

### Scripture Focus: Mark 2:1-12

#### OPENING THEME

Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions Theme: "Together: We Pray. We Give. We Go."

Key Truth: When Jesus is in the HOUSE, Everything Changes.

#### SCRIPTURE READING: MARK 2:1-12

*Location:* Jesus entered **CAPERNAUM** after some days.

*The Crowd:* So many people gathered that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the **DOOR**.

*The Need:* Four men brought a **PARALYTIC** to Jesus.

*The Problem:* They could not come near Jesus because of the **CROWD**.

*The Solution:* They **UNCOVERED** the roof and let down the bed.

*Jesus' Response:* "When Jesus saw their **FAITH**, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your **SINS** are forgiven you.'"

#### THREE MAIN POINTS

1. The **PRESENCE** of the Master
  - A. Jesus was "in the **HOUSE**"
  - B. There was an atmosphere of **EXCITEMENT** and **EXPECTANCY**
  - C. The most important thing we have is the **POWER** and **PRESENCE** of the Lord Jesus  
*Discussion Point:* How do you prepare your heart to meet with Jesus?
2. The **PARTNERSHIP** of the Men
  - A. **FOUR** men carried their paralyzed friend
  - B. They were **PERSISTENT**, **CREATIVE** and **COLLABORATIVE**
  - C. They would not take **NO** for an answer
  - D. Every obstacle became an **OPPORTUNITY**  
*Key Principle:* We can do **MORE** together than any single one of us can do alone.  
*Application Point:* Who in your life needs you to help get them close to Jesus?
3. The **PRIORITY** of the Ministry
  - A. Jesus dealt with the **PRIMARY** issue first
  - B. The paralytic's **SINS** were forgiven before his body was healed
  - C. Only **GOD** can forgive sins  
*Jesus' Words:* "Son, your sins are **FORGIVEN** you."  
*The Challenge:* "I saw to you, **ARISE**, take up your **BED** and go to your house."

#### THE CRITICS VS. THE HELPERS

1. The Scribes:
  - A. They were **SITTING** there (not helping)
  - B. They criticized instead of **CELEBRATING**
  - C. They questioned: "Who can forgive sins but **GOD** alone?"
2. The Lesson: We need **COOPERATION**, not criticism.

#### GOSPEL APPLICATION

Luke 19:10 - Jesus' Mission: "The Son of Man has come to **SEEK** and to **SAVE** those who were lost."

The Call: Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be **SAVED**.

2 Corinthians 5:17: "If any man is in Christ, he is a **NEW** creation. Old things pass away, and all things become **NEW**."

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## TENNESSEE MISSIONS CONNECTION

**Current Need:** Nearly 5 MILLION people in Tennessee need to be saved.

**What They Need:** Friends who will not take **NO** for an answer and will do whatever it takes to get them close to Jesus.

**Our Response:** Creative **GIVING**, creative **GOING**, and creative **SERVING**

## KEY SERMON PHRASES TO EMPHASIZE

- “When Jesus is in the house, everything changes”
- “We are always better together”
- “Don’t ever give up in your prayers”
- “Without faith, it’s impossible to please God”
- “Only God can forgive sins” (acknowledge the scribes were right)
- “Get up! Get off that bed where you’ve been lying your whole life”
- “There is no sinner too far away that God’s grace can’t reach them”

## TRANSITION PHRASES

1. **Moving to Partnership:** “Now what was going on outside and up on the roof was one bit of the story...”
2. **Moving to Priority:** “Jesus dealt with the primary issue first...”
3. **Moving to Application:** “Brothers and sisters, we’re living in a state that has a lot of lost people in it...”

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS TO ASK

- “Who do you know that needs your invitation?”
- “Who needs you to go and invite them?”
- “How can you find creative ways to get your friend near to Jesus?”
- “Who in your life is paralyzed - maybe not physically, but emotionally or spiritually?”

## CLOSING PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for sending **JESUS**
  - Pray for those who are **FAR FROM GOD**
  - Ask God to help us be faithful in sharing the **GOSPEL**
  - Pray for Tennessee Baptist churches to **WORK TOGETHER**
- Final Reminder:* There is no sinner too **FAR** away that God’s grace can’t reach them.

## KEY STATISTICS/FACTS TO MENTION

- This story appears **THREE TIMES** in the Gospels (Matthew 9, Mark 2, Luke 5)
- Capernaum was a small fishing village on the Sea of Galilee
- Jesus had been there before (“again he entered Capernaum”)
- The roof was made of tiles and thatch that could be removed

*“Together we pray, together we give, together we go for the glory of the Lord Jesus,  
for the sake of the gospel.”*