

TALK IT OVER

CARPE DEUM — DARING FAITH, PART 2

GETTING STARTED.

1. How many people could fit in your house? Imagine the President wanted you to host a party. (*Hors d'oeuvres* only.)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE. Read **Mark 2: 1–12**.

1. In a study Bible, locate Capernaum on a map. Where is it relative to Nazareth? — to Jerusalem?
2. Mark says Jesus “returned” to Jerusalem. Where had he been and why? (See **Mark 1: 35–39, 45**) The house was filled, and partly surrounded, by a crowd. What about Jesus attracted crowds?
3. What problems did the paralyzed man’s friends face? How did they overcome them?
4. The crowd was probably at the house hoping to see a miracle. How is that expectation different from the faith of the man’s friends?
5. What did the scribes find objectionable about what Jesus did? What would their reaction have been if Jesus had immediately healed him, rather than forgiving his sins?
6. How does Jesus take the initiative in challenging the scribes? (**v. 8**)

APPLY THE LESSON.

7. Suppose you lent your lawnmower to a neighbor, and after several weeks, the pastor of a nearby church went over and told your neighbor not to worry about it because their lawnmower debt was paid. What would you think about the pastor? What would your neighbor think?
8. How, in light of your previous answer, were the scribes correct to wonder about Jesus? (**v. 7**) How does Jesus’ demonstration answer their concerns?
9. What are some things today that can get between lost people and Jesus? Crowds? Buildings? How? What else?
10. If it was up to you, how could you “work around” the obstacles you named in the previous question? What about your solution would make Jesus notice your faith?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MONDAY

Read **Joshua 3: 7-17**. When did the river part for Israel to cross? (**v.13**). What was so special about *that* moment? What does it suggest when we are considering how to act on our faith?

TUESDAY

Read **Esther 4: 8-14**. How is Esther convicted of her need to act? How was God behind it? Who are the people in your life who you trust to help you know when and how to act in faith?

WEDNESDAY

Read **Luke 8: 40-56**. How did Jairus take the initiative? How did the woman? How would Jairus feel while Jesus was helping the woman? What did Jesus say to Jairus? If two friends were wondering why God had helped one with a problem but not the other, what could you tell them from this story?

THURSDAY

Read **John 14: 12-14**. What promises does Jesus make? When have you seen a follower of Jesus do some great work? In light of Jesus' promises, what are some reasons we don't see more great works?

FRIDAY

Read **Acts 3: 1-9**. How did Peter know that God would enable the man to be healed? When you see people begging, what do you do? Some Christians believe that God no longer does the kinds of miracles today that are recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. What kind of prayers do you think God would answer?

SATURDAY

Read **Exodus 14: 10-22**. What does Moses say to the people? What does he say to God? How does God answer? When has God maneuvered you to a place where you needed to call out? What happened?