

## HELP A SISTA OR A BROTHA OUT

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Mark 2:1-12

The one thing we can be positively clear about is: we live in a hurting world. Look at what is going on everyday in the news. Celebrities are dying because of alleged drug overdoses. Horrible and senseless crimes are happening everyday. The divorce rate is steadily increasing. Divorces are tearing up the fabric of our souls. Four thousand children were homeless last night. However, children are not the only ones without homes. There are people without homes, jobs, and/or family. Is there anyone willing to help a sista or a brotha out? There are people like you and I out there hurting and they don't know Jesus. Many of those people who are in pain look just like us. They have learned how to mask their pain. But they are wondering if there is anybody in the crowd who will come and invite them to know Jesus. We need to give a buddy check and a kingdom check to make sure the people around us are where they need to be.

God doesn't want us to settle for instant microwave blessings. Jesus came to earth to heal the afflicted and demonized, but Jesus knew that the people also needed know the Word. **Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8** Many of us don't have the Word in us because we don't read or study the Word. However, you must understand that the Word is power. The Word of God is living and life. **2 Timothy 3:14** The Word gives you everything you need to be who and what God is calling you to become. The Word is useful for teaching us how to get right and how to stay right. The Word of God will create faith in you. When the Word is in you, nothing can resist its power. When the Word is preached, healing and deliverance happen. When the Word is preached, we become more than conquerors.

In the middle of Jesus' preaching in Capernaum, four men who were trying to get their friend to him for healing interrupted him. They could not get through the front door due to the crowd. Therefore, they lowered their friend down to Jesus through the roof. Why couldn't they get through the crowd? We are called to be welcoming and hospitable. Why wouldn't we want people to have what we have in Jesus?

***These men were deeply concerned about their friend and wanted to see him healed.*** Do you care about anybody other than yourself? We are so consumed with our own lives that we don't take the time to worry about other people. We don't care like we used to. If you are going to be a radical disciple you have to care about someone other than yourself. You don't have to heal the person you just have to get them to the healer.

***These men believed that Jesus could and would heal their friend.*** They believed in the miracles of Jesus. They understood that God was still a healer as He had been in the past. Some of us have been dealing with brothas and sistas that get delivered and return back to what they were delivered from. Then, we write them off doubting that there is any more help for that person. God said that if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you can move that mountain. You have to keep telling that mountain to move. When you think you can't believe enough, ask God to increase your faith. 'Faith is the substance of

things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen,' **Heb 11:1** you have to make up your mind that God is who He says He is. "I will trust in the Lord. I will stay on the battlefield."

***These men didn't just pray about it.*** They did something about it. They got their friend to Jesus despite their obstacles. Some of us are stuck just praying for our friends and family members. Sometimes, you have to drag them to Jesus. If you can drag them to the club, you can drag them into the gates of heaven. You are not scared to ask someone to sin with you. Why are you scared to invite them to know Jesus? You can't get your blessing and/or breakthrough without responsibility. When those men got to the door and saw the crowd they could have given up and tried the next day. The next day is not promised. Don't wait for just the right time. You have to be creative like these men. Everybody is not opposed to going. For some, all it will take is an invitation. Have you invited them? You have to have faith for your sista or brotha. **In the text, Jesus saw a faith that was not afraid of the obstacles, a faith that would not give up.**

Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic and healed him immediately. You can't get to the place where God wants you because of your sin. God can heal your body but you can't be completely healed if your mind stays the same. The Word says that if you confess your sins God is faithful and just to forgive, **1 John 1:9**. When God forgives, you are forgiven. We are always looking for evidence. We can't just trust God. You are still struggling to believe because you have been disappointed and hurt. Keep waiting for Him. The man walked out of there leaving the crowd amazed. Forgiveness is not only the greatest need in our world today it's the greatest miracle God can perform. Give God praise for the miracles in your life. Now that God has performed a miracle in your life, go get your brotha or sista. Why assume that he or she doesn't need the same thing you need? Jesus is looking for people who are willing to help a brotha or sista out. Do a buddy check and a kingdom check.

Peace.