

Introduction:

1. "I have never seen anything like that!"
 - a. I was watching the NBA finals the other day, and Ray Allen hit a clutch 3-pointer with 5 seconds left to tie it. When I was about ten, I saw the Grand Canyon.
 - b. If I could've lived during the times of Jesus, I would've been able to see things that would make clutch shots and big holes seem like nothing.
2. Although we cannot witness the intense nature of miracles today, it is still exciting to read the power of our Savior displayed in His word through these awesome works.
 - a. One of the most fascinating miracles recorded in the Bible is in Mark 2:1-12. Just like the clutch 3 pointer and the Grand Canyon that I saw, these people saw something amazing; they had never seen anything like what they just saw.
 - b. When we read a story or a miracle like that, we must ask ourselves, why is this recorded in the Bible? What lessons can we learn from this? Over the next few minutes we will look at three purposes Mark records this specific miracle in his account of Jesus life

The Lesson

I. Determination pays off

- A. The men weren't going to let anything get in the way of them seeing Jesus.
 1. Could've easily turned around seeing lack of space.
 2. Determined to the point of digging a hole in someone's roof.
 3. Risked humiliation (what if nothing happened?).
- B. We need to be as determined when it comes to following Jesus (**Philippians 3:12-14**). It's apparent that Paul was dedicated to Jesus, using language like press on, this one thing I do, laying hold of.
 1. Paul was a man that was just as determined as these men, as is evident in these verses. At the end of **II Corinthians 11**, Paul lists several things that happened to him because of his service to God. He had every excuse to give up, but never did.
 2. Paul of all people knew how hard it is to be a Christian, but he still continued to do God's will. In verse 12 he says, "I press on, so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus." In verse 13 he says, "This one thing I do." And then he says, "Forgetting that lies behind and reaching forward to that which lies ahead." Finally in verse 14 he says, "Press on," again, putting emphasis on the fact that he was living with the end in mind, not dwelling on anything but Heaven.
 3. Paul is a great role model, the men in Mark 2 are great role models, but unless we apply this to our lives, everything I just said is meaningless. We can't just sit in a pew and listen to a sermon. We have to go home and do. We must not turn from Jesus just because it gets hard, we must be determined, we must risk everything to get to Heaven.

II. Jesus knows the hearts of men.

- A. Jesus knew the hearts of all the men involved in this story.
 1. He knew what they were thinking before they even said it. Never does it say in this passage, "After these things were said, Jesus replied" or, "Upon hearing this, Jesus answered". In verse 8 it says Jesus was aware immediately of the things that the Pharisees were reasoning in their hearts.
 2. Jesus reacted accordingly. After knowing what was truly in the hearts of these men, He acted upon what they were thinking.

3. To the lame man, He not only saved him from his physical weakness, but He saved him from his sins. To the Pharisees who were saying Jesus can't do that, were scolded by Him and He rebuked them. He reacted to each mentality according to what they needed to hear.
- B. He knows our hearts.
1. He knows if we are truly serving him, and He knows if we are serving men. Judgment day will come, and when it does come, God will make known everything you have done. **(Luke 8:17)** Luke 8 begins with Jesus telling the parable of the sower, which is a parable about having the right heart. Jesus follows this parable by saying in verse 17 that He knows our hearts, and nothing will be hidden from Him. We may do some things alone that we think no one will ever know. The biggest lie we can tell ourselves is, "I will never get caught." You may not get caught during your life in earth, but when Jesus comes back, there will be no such things as secrets.
 2. Since God knows our hearts, we have two different ways that we can respond. **Psalm 44:20-21**. In these verses we can see that since God knows our hearts and the choices we can make. In verse 20 it says that we can forget God and turn to other gods. Look down to verses 23 and 26. This verse tells us our other choice, which is turning to God and crying out to Him. If we make that our task, verse 26 says He will redeem us. Since God knows our hearts, let us have the right heart for Him.

III. Jesus has the power to save.

- A. He saved the lame man.
1. Jesus did save the lame man from his inability to walk, but that's not the primary lesson of this story.
 2. Jesus saved the man only to prove that He has authority. (verse 10) There were people during that time who doubted that Jesus really was the son of God. Some were even in the room with Him.
 3. Jesus' reason for doing this miracle was to prove He could save his soul. He cares about our physical body far less than he cares about our soul. Jesus knew something that most people didn't: to forgive a soul is far more important than healing a body.
- B. Jesus can save us as well
1. Turn with me to **Acts 2:22**. This verse says that just like in Mark 2, Jesus was performing many miracles. Drop down to verse **24**. Again here is the idea of Jesus displaying His power. Now look at verse **33**. Peter said that these people that he was preaching to saw and heard his miracles and teachings. Now look how the people replied in verses **37-38**.
 2. These people knew they had seen Jesus, and they knew who he was. But they gave him over to die anyway, and they were sorry for it. Peter replies by telling them not all hope is lost, that Jesus could still save them. Finally look down to verse **41**. This verse says that that day, Jesus saved 3,000 souls.

Conclusion:

1. In a spiritual sense, Jesus is still in that room in Capernaum, waiting for lost souls to come to Him. Will you be the one that fights through anything to get to Him? Will you be the one who has the right heart and accept what Jesus has to say? Will you be the one who acknowledges that Jesus truly is the one and only savior? Jesus wants you to be. And the best thing is, you don't have to rip open a roof to get to Him.
2. If you desire to come to Jesus, now is the time; please come forward while we stand and sing.