

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO FOR YOUR FRIENDS?

*When helping your friends come to Jesus, remember...*

- 1) We often have no idea how God is **working** behind the scenes – 5:17 *On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.*
  - 2) We have a heart-driven **mission** to get our friends to Jesus – 5:18 *And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus,*
- Luke 19:10  
*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*
- 3) When experiencing roadblocks, become **creative** rather than **demoralized** – 5:19 *but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus.*
  - 4) We know to expect **pushback** – 5:20-21 *And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”<sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

5) We can expect God to do more than others expect – 5:22-26 *When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts?”<sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk?’<sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.”<sup>25</sup> And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.<sup>26</sup> And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”*

‘extraordinary’ – παράδοξα – ‘contrary to opinion or exceeding expectation, *strange, wonderful, remarkable.*’<sup>1</sup>

### Next steps

- 1) Write out your testimony.
  - a. Your life before Christ.
  - b. How you started following Christ.
  - c. How your life has changed as a result.
  
- 2) Share your testimony: “If it would be ok, I’d like to share something very meaningful to me.”
  - a. Feel free to preface what you’re *not trying to say or imply*:  
“I love and appreciate you...”
  - b. Frontload it with humility.
  
- 3) 3 Circles Gospel Presentation
  
- 4) Friend Day – Sunday, February 16. Gospel presentation on the friendship of God.

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<sup>1</sup> W. Arndt, F. W. Danker, & W. Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed., (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 763.