

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR

One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

❖ Friends don't LEAVE friends BEHIND.

Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.

Luke 5:18 (NIV)

- How important is it for us that we introduce our friends to Jesus?

❖ Friends don't let OBSTACLES get in their WAY.

When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

Luke 5:19 (NIV)

- Are we willing to do whatever it takes to make sure our friends meet Jesus?

❖ Friends BELIEVE that JESUS can CHANGE ANYBODY.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Luke 5:20 (NIV)

- Do you really believe Jesus can save anybody, or have you given up on some?

❖ Friends don't stop DOING what's RIGHT because of OTHERS.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Luke 5:21 (NIV)

- Have you allowed your own sense of fear to keep you from sharing Jesus?

❖ Friends know that a person's GREATEST NEED is JESUS.

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sin." So He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

Luke 5:22-24 (NIV)

- Do you really believe that everyone's greatest need is a relationship with Jesus?

❖ Friends STAY with a friend until the END.

Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Luke 5:25-26 (NIV)

- Who do you know that is counting on you to lead them to Jesus?

❖ Closing Challenge: Who is YOUR ONE that God has called you to share Jesus with?

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone telling them ... As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14-15 (NIV)