

Nameless || Week One

Mark 2:1-12

The Paralytic

(Read the passage and answer the following questions)

1. What are initial observations or things that stand out to you about this passage?
2. What is this man being carried identified as?

As a group, unfold what happened from the paralytic's perspective.

3. If someone didn't know your name, how do you think they'd identify you?
4. Do you ever feel like you're identified by your faults or shortcomings? What's that like? Do you feel like it's YOU identifying yourself this way or others? Explain.
5. Do you ever try to be identified by a certain thing, regardless of if it's truly who you are or are not? Discuss.

As a group, unfold what happened from the four friends' perspective.

6. The four friends of the paralytic faced daunting crowds in getting to Jesus. What crowds get in the way of you getting to Jesus personally?
7. What can your role be in helping your friends/kids/spouse avoid those "crowds"?
8. What needy people do you know that might benefit from being introduced to Jesus?
9. These men went to great, socially awkward lengths to get their friend to Jesus. What would it look like for you to bring your friends to him?

Closing: The passage ends with everyone being amazed and glorifying God. What prevents us from being amazed by God?

Nameless || Week Two

Matt. 8:5-13

The Roman Centurion

All of us have been there before...that moment when pain and heartache comes crashing in. It's in those moments where we see what our faith is really made of. Is our "faith" a hollow shell we put up to make ourselves look spiritual? Or does it have real substance? Is it that real and certain hope that we depend on for our lives daily? We learn a very powerful lesson about faith from a nameless Roman Centurion in Matt. 8:5-13

(Read the passage and answer the following questions)

1. What are your initial observations about the passage?
2. Why is it significant that this character is a Roman Centurion? (Remember, the book of Matthew was primarily written to the Jews, whom would likely have very antagonistic view of Roman soldiers who represented taxes, authority and oppressive government)
3. Why do you think Jesus reacted the way that he did? (Note v. 11 particularly)
4. Talk about authority. What is the Roman Centurion declaring about Jesus in v. 9?
5. What do you learn about faith from this story?
6. In what areas of your life do you feel you have great faith? In what areas do you struggle?
7. How could having a faith like the Roman Centurion's change your life?
8. The Roman Centurion claims that he "does not deserve" to have Jesus come to his house. Have you every felt particularly unworthy of or undeserving of Jesus' love? Explain.
9. Where do you need a miracle in your life? Do you believe Jesus can accomplish this miracle?

Close by praying with your group. Pray that he would help our unbelief. Pray that He would expand our Faith. Pray, in faith, for those miracles your group members are looking for. And invite others in the group to pray as well!

Nameless || Week Three

John 5:1-18

The Man at the Pool

(Read the passage and answer the Following questions)

1. What are initial observations or things that stand out to you about this passage?
2. Why is Jesus' question to this man significant?
3. According to verse 7, how would you imagine that this man feels in light of his current situation? Why type of attitude does he have?
4. Have you ever felt like that? Discuss.
5. Why were the Jews upset with Jesus?
6. What would have been your response if you saw this man who had been sick for almost 40 years healed?
7. What do you think caused the Jews to "miss" who Jesus was?
8. Before Jesus came, the man found it very easy to come up with a list of excuses. It was his self-victimizing attitude that caused him to miss Jesus. What excuses do you find yourself using sometimes?
9. Jesus made a point to go out of his way and heal this man - this "nameless" man - on the Sabbath. What does that tell you about Jesus?

Close the group first by asking what "healing" members of the group are seeking and commit to pray for that. Next, encourage the group to keep one another accountable to not making excuses.

Nameless || Week Four

John 4:1-42

The Woman at the Well

As you read through this story, can you see the powerful message of hope? One can miss it if they're not reading closely, because it's not the obvious hope of the physical—legs healed or servants revived—it's the hope of the spiritual. Here was a woman burdened by the identity of her past and the cultural oppression surrounding her race. This woman was thirsty for renewal. No respectable Jewish man would talk to a Samaritan woman in this setting...but Jesus did. Jesus did and set her on a new course. A course inaugurated by a town coming to know the Messiah through her testimony.

(Read the passage and answer the following questions)

1. What are your initial observations or things that stand out to you from the passage?
2. In Biblical times, the most common practice was for women to come and draw water from wells twice a day—morning and evening—but this story says the woman came at the sixth hour (Noon)...why do you think that is?
3. What do you think were this woman's emotions over the course of this story? Do you think you would have these same emotions?
4. Talk about the metaphor of thirst. What is significant about "thirst" as it relates to the Gospel?
5. What was Jesus' response to the woman's statement in v. 20? What is Jesus essentially saying in his response?
6. Why do you think the scriptures make a point to state the fact that she left her water jar (v. 28)?
7. What are you thirsty for? What is your heart/soul longing for? Do you believe that Jesus can satisfy that thirst?
8. What role did this woman play in bringing her town to knowledge of Jesus?
9. Do you believe—really believe—that Jesus can use you to bring people to Jesus? What's holding you back?

Close the Group by talking about the value of one's testimony. Ask the group if they have shared it with those who don't know Christ? If your group is new, perhaps make a decision to start the next couple groups with testimonies from people in the group until everyone has had a chance to share.