



## SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ROOF TO GET A BLESSING!

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June 22, 2014

Sermon Text: Mark 2:1-5

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.<sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.<sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.<sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, **they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.**<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.*

This account in Mark is an opportunity to see real faith at work—to see what it will do when the crisis demands it. Though the sermon text comes from the underlined part—verse four, the third verse is critical in understanding the action presented in verse four. ***Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.*** Five men were coming to one man because it was understood that the one man could do everything the five men thought he could do. You see, friends, when your faith in one is so great that you are certain of the outcome, you will do what is necessary to get to him. You become mission--minded. Nothing must stop you! When faith has seized you because it has seized upon the object to which it is directed, you will prioritize yourself to get to that object by any lawful means necessary. All energies are directed to the goal. The energies are directed because the thoughts are directed. You see the relationship of thoughts to actions? It is said that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. When they are directed to someone who can help deliver from difficulty when no one else can—you're on a mission! If Jesus is the object of your faith, whatever it takes to get to him you will do it!

Consider the action of the four men in the story. *Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, ***they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.**** Their action was in direct relationship to their faith and purpose. Whatever it took to get to Jesus was going to be done! Conventional thinking would have considered the door as the logical means of access. But people were in the way! People of less faith would have gone home. But knowledge in an individual of faith would remind him that given Jesus's popularity, this might be the only opportunity to get to him. There might not be another chance! The doorway is blocked but there is the roof. The roof is unconventional! Just wait until Jesus comes out of the house! That will not work because the crowds will still be there. So the roof is it! But the roof has no access point to get to Jesus. We'll create one. But that is going to mean damage. We will worry about that later. Our mission is to get the paralytic man in front of Jesus. When we have done that we will have done everything in our power to help the man. There will be nothing else we can do.