

THE PARALYTIC ENCOUNTERS JESUS

BIG IDEA

Jesus transforms our mats of shame into mats of grace

SCRIPTURE

Read aloud the following verses: John 5:1-15

OPENER

What would you think and say if Jesus asked you, “Do you want to get well?”

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus asked the paralytic if he wanted to get well?
2. Share a time when you have found yourself in the same struggle for so long that you don't even struggle against it anymore?
3. Why do you prefer to leave your mat behind?
4. Share a time when **conviction** led you to a better life.
5. Talk about a time when you achieved victory over a sin, but still carried shame that prevented you from sharing that part of your life.
6. Tony shared that authentic community is found at the intersection of your deepest desires and struggles. What is the risk in sharing these with your small group?

TAKEAWAY

It is in your mess that Jesus comes to you and transforms your mat of shame into a mat of grace.

When you proclaim a life change, you:

- a. become relatable
- b. offer hope to others
- c. point others to the source of change... Jesus

REFERENCES

- John 5:1-15
- I Peter 3:15
- Colossians 4:6
- Mark 2:5
- James 5:16
- John 9:1-3

DIGGING DEEPER

The Pharisees were more concerned about their petty rules than the miraculous change in the man's life. What are the "petty things" in our lives that blind us to the miraculous work Christ is doing in the world?

An even greater issue with the paralytic was sin in his life (John 5:14). Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Do you cheapen God's grace when you enjoy that grace without seeking truly what God wants you to do and be?