

What We Really Need

Mark 2:1-12

Into the Lesson:

Take some time and check out some examples of "shameless audacity" found in a couple of parables and some real-life examples from scripture:

Luke 11:5-8-
Luke 18:1-5-
Daniel 1:11-12-
Mark 2:3-4-

What are some of the other nouns used to describe the events recorded above?

Into the Word:

Reread Mark 2:1-12 and try to imagine how this scene would have looked from the perspective of:

The homeowner (possibly Peter whose house was beginning to look like a fraternity party)-

The onlookers both inside and out-
The scribes (Do you think Jesus would have needed Divine insight to know what they were thinking?)-
The paralytic and his four friends-
Jesus-

Of those listed above, how would they respond to Lane's comment: "...**the world is a broken place**"?

What do you think the paralytic man's first thought was as he heard "...your sins are forgiven"?

How would the notion of "repentance" have been understood by the Nation of Israel and the Gentile population?

How does this fit with Lane's comment, regarding the scribes, "...since I've done the easier part, from your perspective, let me show you the rest..."?

How would Mark 1:38 have provided the Disciples the focus of this phase of Jesus' ministry?

How would the last part of Mark 2:12, "... **We have never seen anything like this**" been an everyday occurrence for the Disciples?

Into Life:

Respond to Lane's statement, "So many people believe that God will reward nice people..."

How does the notion of "repentance" play out in 21st century America?

What percentage of people probably think, "on balance, I'm probably alright with God"?

How do we respond to those who may think a call to repent, "is Insanity"?

How will our repentance impact our response to those who seem a long way off from God?

What can we do to give our repentance a visual impact to those we encounter daily?

Apart from lowering a friend into the presence of the God of Creation, how can we show the shameless audacity that will change a friend's life for eternity?

In the cross, Jesus bore the punishment that sin deserved, to offer us the forgiveness and pardon we never deserved.