



JULY 19, 2020

LOVE FIRST, FIRST LOVE

WEEK DEVOTIONAL BASED ON SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS 9:00AM AT
WWW.FIRSTLUTHERAN-BARRON.ORG OR ON THE RADIO 97.7FM

Mark 2:1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. 3 Then some people[a] came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk?' 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"— he said to the paralytic— 11 "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." 12 And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

HOLDING IN PRAYER

For health and healing we pray for: Lois Schultz, Gladys Hansen, Valeri Scheps, DeAnn Anderson, Eugene Olson, Ron Kahl, Kathy Weghorn, Betty Missling and Gail Larson

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMPASSION TO THE NEIGHBOR

TAKEN FROM COMPASSION CAMP

COMPASSION HELPS US BE BRAVE

To be brave is letting God help us see and reach out to our neighbor. When we reach out to our neighbor, we experience the miracle of God's power to restore and make our community whole. Through the gospel story of friends bringing their friend on a mat to Jesus, we witness how compassion often requires risk. We also learn ways compassion calls for focus - we keep our eyes on Jesus, even as others might misunderstand or judge our actions.



We might think we only need to be brave for big, scary things. We might think being brave is only for superheroes! But whether it's for a friend or stranger, a family member or a neighbor, or even for ourselves, compassion helps us be brave.

Sometimes being brave means being like the friends by showing up for someone, helping carry their burdens, helping them get where they need to be, and standing with them. Sometimes being brave means being like the friend who was paralyzed by sharing our own story and asking for what you need. And sometimes, being brave means being like Jesus by fully seeing and accepting a person.

IMAGINING

What do you think it means to be brave?
What does it feel like?

Who was brave to you in this story?

What do you think the friend who was paralyzed felt when he was healed?

How do you think he felt when he was able to be in his community again?

Last week we learned how compassion begins with seeing and welcoming. This week, we learned compassion helps us be brave. Being brave sometimes means we don't know what will happen when we show up.

The friend who was paralyzed didn't know if his friends would help him. He didn't know if he would get to see Jesus.

The friends didn't know what would happen when they got to the house to see Jesus. Maybe they wouldn't get into the house. Maybe the religious leaders, or even Jesus, would see them and turn them away. Maybe the friend who was paralyzed wouldn't receive the healing miracle.

Compassion helped them be brave.

The friend who was paralyzed had courage that helped him trust his friends and ask Jesus for help. The friends' courage made them determined to do all they could to help him. Jesus's courage showed the friend who was paralyzed he was loved and accepted.

We can be brave because we are filled with God's love, and God always promises to be with us.

