



Gary Inrig – The Miracles (First Things First)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)”

Week 5 – Read Chapter Five - “First Things First” – Healing The Paralyzed Man” -

This Week - Read – Mark 2:1-12 and Daniel 7:13-14

***Leader NOTE:** Before beginning it is always good to see if there are any immediate prayer needs among the group and be sure to include within opening prayer. Remind all too that ... *“What we say here stays here” so there is freedom in sharing – we are all learning from each other and from the Holy Spirit together – “Iron sharpens Iron” (Proverbs 27:17)*

Opening Prayer: Lord – God ...bless our time tonight and these discussions – let us learn from Your Living Word – Help us to see Your Deity in this Miracle – that You haven’t just come – as a bottle of “pain reliever” –to mask our symptoms temporarily –but as our divine Healer and Spiritual Surgeon – to permanently remove the disease of death for all time and eternity. –Teach us that our greatest need and for those we love – is not just relief from our pain - but belief in You – we pray in Jesus name!

Overview: Here we see the account of Jesus healing the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12, emphasizing that while the man's friends brought him to Jesus for physical healing, Jesus addressed his deeper spiritual need first—forgiveness of sins. The passage in Mark reveals that Jesus has divine authority (Dan. 7:13-14) to forgive sins, a claim that sparked controversy with the religious leaders. By healing the paralytic, Jesus provided visible proof of His invisible spiritual authority. In using the title “First things First” – Gary reminds us that as believers we ought to recognize that ‘our’ greatest need is not relief from earthly problems but relief from our eternal problem (sin) which will ultimately keep us separated from a Holy God. *(Jesus paid a debt he did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay”)* – so that we by His death and resurrection and through our belief in Him (and what He has done) – we may have life eternal with Him!) It also shows how Jesus never confused the urgent with the vital, always addressing humanity's deepest needs first. The hostile response of the Pharisees and scribes illustrate the blindness of unbelief, even in the face of undeniable **miracles**.

- ***Our deepest need is not relief from our circumstances, but forgiveness from our sins***
- ***Jesus has divine authority to forgive sins—a power that belongs to God alone***
- ***We should be as committed to bringing our friends to Jesus as the four men were***
- ***The "main thing" is to keep the main thing the main thing—Jesus and His mission***

“The Lord healed this man by a word of sovereign power. But for that forgiveness to be fully operative, He gave his life on the cross. He did not simply decree forgiveness. He bore the penalty of our sin by paying the price.” – Gary Inrig

Read together – Mark 2:1-12 and Daniel 7:13-14



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share a time when you or someone you know went to extraordinary lengths to help a friend in need. What would you say motivated that action?

2. If you were the paralyzed man, which would you rather hear—"Pick up your bed and go home" or "Your sins are forgiven"?

3. The four friends had to be creative, determined, and willing to risk social disapproval (and the cost of a new roof) to get their friend to Jesus. What societal (or other) obstacles stand in the way of bringing someone to Christ? What are some creative ideas – to do so?

4. The religious leaders saw undeniable evidence but refused to believe. Have you ever experienced or seen that kind of spiritual blindness? What do you think hardens hearts against obvious truth?

5. Gary began the Chapter with the story of the pilots who forgot that their main task – was to “fly the plane”. Is there a "main thing" in your life - you've been neglecting – or distracted from doing - while focused on lesser concerns? What one thing could you do (*or change up*) – to help refocus on what matters most spiritually?



Things to Do this Week - Try to Put Into Practice

- **Willing To Raise The Roof?** -Choose one person who needs Jesus and commit to doing something beautifully creative (within appropriate boundaries – always remember you’ll never argue {or arm wrestle} anyone into the Kingdom – and that’s not God’s way anyway) to help them encounter Jesus Christ. Share with the group next week – on what happened. Suggestion – perhaps think on - “Random acts of Kindness” – Pray about this. The Holy Spirit will show you.
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Closing Prayer: (this prayer is only a suggestion - please pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads) –

Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.

- **Dear Lord** – Thank You for this time together and Your teaching – we are so grateful for Your authority to forgive sins (not just solve our problems) and thank You especially for the friends that You’ve placed into our lives that were willing to “raise the roof” for us – to show us ... You – Jesus! Help us to overcome our complacency in helping others – to see you too – show us how to –and go before us -to break the chains that bind and blind - guide us each day -we pray in Jesus name amen!