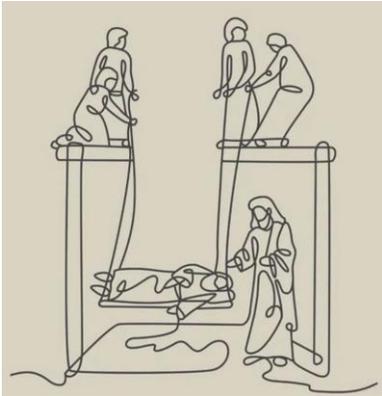


## THE FAITH OF FOUR FRIENDS

### The Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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The story of the four friends who brought a paralytic man to Jesus in Mark 2:1–12 reveals that faith and holiness are not individual pursuits but communal missions, where true discipleship is shown by carrying others to Christ, sharing God's grace generously, and allowing genuine encounter with Jesus.



#### 1. MISSION AND HOLINESS

##### 1.1. Mission Is About Harvesting, Not Planting.

Mission is not merely about planting seeds but about celebrating and sharing the harvest. Jesus Himself said that the harvest is great, but the laborers are few. When we experience something good—like delicious food—we naturally share it. In the same way, when we experience God's love and blessings, it is meant to be shared. This is the nature of the harvest of love: what is received must be given away.

##### 1.2. Holiness Is About Carrying, Not Watching

Holiness is not about passively observing or holding on to blessings for ourselves. It is about carrying others to Christ. True holiness moves outward—it shares grace, lifts others, and brings them to Jesus. Holiness is a mission lived in communion, not in isolation.

#### 2. PEOPLE IN THE STORY AND THEIR MEANING

##### 2.1. The Four Friends – Faith that Acts

The four friends encountered obstacles. The doors and windows were closed, and there was no easy way in. Yet their strong desire to bring the paralytic to Jesus led them to open the roof and lower him down. They experienced God's blessings and lived out their faith in mission and holiness. Their actions teach us perseverance in faith and remind us that obstacles should never stop us from leading others to Christ. If we truly love others, we will do anything to lead them closer to Him.

##### 2.2. The House Owner – Willing Heart

In most cases, damaging a roof could lead to conflict or even legal action. Yet this story

reminds us that for those who truly desire to bring others to Jesus—especially the needy—nothing is too costly. This shows a willingness to serve God at all costs—offering time, talents, and treasures—to bring others to Him. Guiding others to God does not require a leadership position; it only requires an open, available, and willing heart.

##### 2.3. The Scribes – Barriers to God's Grace

The scribes, teachers of the Law, questioned Jesus when He said to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven." Instead of guiding people toward God, they became obstacles to God's grace. A reminder that those who are meant to lead others to God must be careful not to become barriers to grace.

##### 2.4. Jesus- Healing and Wholeness

The mat that the man laid on symbolizes human paralysis—emotional wounds, spiritual struggles, fears, anxieties, and pain. Before encountering Jesus, the mat carried the man; after the encounter, the man carried the mat. This reveals a profound truth: when a person draws near to God, transformation happens. Before Jesus, we let problems control us; with Jesus, we take them head-on. More importantly, it reminds us to bring people closer to God to teach them not to rely on their own strength, but rather to let their self-confidence be rooted to their faith in God.

#### 3. BLESSINGS MUST BE SHARED

**3.1.** Blessings that are not shared decay, just as fruit left untouched rots.

**3.2.** Blessings that are not shared are lost, but blessings shared overflow.

**3.3.** God blesses us so that we may become blessings to others. We are never given blessings simply to keep them from others.

#### Conclusion:

True faith is active, generous, and communal. Holiness is not achieved by standing aside or keeping God's blessings to ourselves, but by courageously carrying others to Christ despite obstacles. When blessings are shared, they multiply; when faith is lived in communion, it becomes a mission. We are blessed not for ourselves alone, but so that we may become blessings to others.

#### Reflection:

Who are the people in your life whom God is calling you to carry closer to Christ? What obstacles might you need to overcome to do so?

#### SCRIBES Ministry

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<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1Ait13p0gE>

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