

VISION 2018: RESTORING THINGS TOGETHER
January 14, 2018 Mark 2:1-12 by Bob Branch

“Reflect on, Own and Embody Mark 2:1-12—Together!”

Put Jesus at the CENTER of our lives.

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

1. LEARN from Him—listening to and learning from Jesus—

Become more attentive and responsive to him.

“learn Christ” **Ephesians 4:20**

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my learners”

John 8:32

How might we embody this—become learners together?

2. CARE generously for others outside the church.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” **1 John 3:16** (1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8)

How might we embody this generous care?

⁵ When Jesus saw *their* faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

3. BELIEVE Jesus and act on that belief.

“Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” **John 11:40**

How can you exercise your faith more?

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹ “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

JESUS brings restoration.

“Strive for full restoration” **2 Corinthians 13:11**

4. God’s people RESTORE things everywhere they go!

- **Learn**—Are you a learner of Jesus?
- **Care**—Identify 2 people...
- **Believe**—Identify 2 areas to exercise this week...
- **Restore**—Identify 1 broken relationship to reconcile...

What one thing can you do to start today?