

## WHAT JESUS DESIRES—Priority #3

(Mark 2:1-12)

### *Jesus desires to USE you, CHALLENGE you, and AMAZE you*

- Jesus *USES* anonymous bed carriers (1-4)
- Jesus *CHALLENGES* skeptics (5-9)
- Jesus *AMAZES* observers (10-12)

## QUOTES OF NOTE

I have learned that most people either want to leave everything to God or to humanity. Those who believe that God is in charge sit back and give God advice, and eventually they lose faith that God can make a difference. Those who believe that we are in charge may ask God for advice and then act, but they too eventually lose faith that we humans can make a difference. Both are unaware that God has created a world in which God can accomplish nothing without our help and we can accomplish nothing without God's help. For us the issue is to discern what God would like to accomplish and to ask God how we might cooperate, knowing that together all things are possible and there is hope. (John Westerhoff III, *Will Our Children Have Faith?*)

Often, we figure out a plan, ask people to join us and ask God to bless it. Isn't it easier to figure out what God is blessing and join that? (Bono, lead singer of U2, *National Prayer Breakfast*)

Jesus never met a disease he could not cure, a birth defect he could not reverse, a demon he could not exorcise. But he did meet skeptics he could not convince and sinners he could not convert. Forgiveness of sins requires an act of the will on the receiver's part, and some who heard Jesus' strongest words about grace and forgiveness turned away unrepentant. (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)

Who are *you* in your version of this story?