

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR

Scripture used: [Mark 2:1-12 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Who carries you? Pastor Kim taught from the story of the man with paralysis, a man dependent on friends who were determined to get him in the presence of Jesus. The intent of the community that day was to hear Jesus and His message. They came out in droves, but their plans were disrupted, and they experienced so much more. Pastor Kim expounded on the definition and layers of what it means to be a godly friend for the Kingdom of God.

KEY POINTS

1. **God sees the helpers.** Jesus responded to the faith in action of the friends of the man with paralysis. Pastor Soomee shared pivotal times in her life where she and her husband were in need of tangible, essential support, and it was the friends of God who came through for them. Through the people in her life, she came to know that God saw her and cared about her. These experiences led them to a joyful conviction of being able to pass on this blessing; once she and her husband were established with a home and resources, they gladly opened up their home to serve others because they had experienced so much blessing from God in their past.
2. **God sees the helpless.** There are times when God will use us to reveal Himself. The people of Capernaum sought Jesus out; some out of curiosity, some out of desperation, and some to find a reason to oppose Him. It didn't matter. God saw what everyone needed and used those moments to widen their understanding of who He is and to give clarity about faith in Him.
3. **God sees the big picture.** We have a perspective those in Capernaum didn't have, since we know the entire biblical account of Jesus as the agent of our salvation and redemption. In the same way, when Jesus works in our lives, he has the "big picture" of all that God intends to do in our lives. In this encounter with Jesus, the four friends' intent was healing for their friend, yet Jesus saw the deeper need to forgive their friend's sins, not just to provide physical healing. As Jesus met the man's true need, the whole city experienced the Son of Man's demonstrated power to heal, forgive, and bless!
4. **Come to the house where friends are.** The friends and all witnesses that day received more than they expected. They affirmed: "We've never seen anything like this before!" Pastor Soomee invites us to keep coming to the house, to church, to be with believers. She asked, "Who carried you?" and "Who is God calling you to carry?" She reminded us that God sent people to carry us when we were faced with challenging times, and we should take the opportunity to say "thank you" to those who made a difference in our lives. And as we look forward, we should be open to those whom God has given us an opportunity to bless and "carry" toward the presence of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Who carried you through a difficult time? Consider that this may be a perfect time to tell this person, "Thank you!" Tell them how it brought you closer to Christ. Sometimes people don't think much of something they've done until you tell them. Faith comes by hearing and can come by hearing your story of gratitude!
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider a time when God turned to you specifically and proved that He sees you. Perhaps you were at a loss and He came through to give you favor, healing, or maybe an advantage you didn't have before. Reflect on [Mark 2:1-12](#) and what Jesus did for the paralyzed man, his friends, and the whole community in the story. Is there a time when you prayed for something, and God answered in a different way that reflected your true need? He is still faithful and able to do more than we ask or imagine!
- 3) **DO** - Spend time in reflection this week. Do you more often feel like a "helper" in this season? What does it mean that God sees you? Do you more often feel "helpless" in this season? In prayer, ask God to show Himself in a way that reassures you that He is with you. As you consider the question, "Who is God calling you to carry?", what is one practical step that God is calling you to take to be a blessing to someone around you? Join us next Sunday as Pastor Hurmon returns with a new message to prepare us for an exciting fall season at NBCC!