

# The Life Challenge

**"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10**

## **Sermon Series: Stories of Jesus**

**Title:** Trust This Man

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**Text:** Mark 2:1-12

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## Introduction

In this story, Jesus offers something to a paralyzed man. Jesus' miracle offered surprises for everyone in attendance and should also surprise us, the readers. Jesus uses this opportunity to demonstrate that despite our perceived needs, the number one need in our lives is that we need our sins forgiven and have a right relationship with God. Jesus uses the healing of this young man to demonstrate that He was so serious about our need for forgiveness that He told everyone that He was going to take the punishment for our sin to the cross.

## Discussion

1. How much does a person need to know and understand about Jesus to place their faith in Him? Can a person who doesn't have a clear understanding of scripture and the church come to salvation? Is it a pre-requisite that a person have a deep conviction of sin before they believe in Christ?
2. What types of things do we feel are non-negotiables for someone to understand or commit to before they can become a Christian? Why are these on the list?
3. In thinking about the aggressiveness of Jesus' grace, how does this help direct your heart to share the gentle message of Jesus' love for others? Think of some ideas for personal/family next steps in sharing Jesus' love with others.
4. Why is it essential to understand that salvation is not an action that we are able to undergo without Jesus? Does this sit well knowing that there is a mystery and a uniqueness that the Holy Spirit brings into our lives? Share what these may be.
5. When reflecting on Jesus' question to the Pharisees about what is easier to say—your sins are forgiven, or get up off your mat you are healed—how do these two impossible human situations help drive you to a right relationship with Jesus?
6. What can followers of Jesus do practically to understand that our number one need is to have a right relationship with Jesus?
7. Are there ways you can more tangibly acknowledge and express gratitude for the costly price of grace?