I Love My Church: Love By Serving

November 12th & 15th, 2026

Mark 2:1–12

READ:

Main Passages: Mark 2:1–12

Supporting Passages: Ezekiel 33:30–32; 2 Corinthians 5:16; Matthew 6:43–45a; Matthew 17:20; James 2:14–17; Isaiah 61

KEY POINTS:

- Don't Let Yourself Become an Obstacle – We can become so focused on what we want to receive from Jesus that we overlook the people who need Him.

- Move Beyond a Mindset of Judgment – When we approach church with a mindset of judgment, we evaluate people and situations based on whether we like them rather than seeing them through the eyes of Christ

- Let Faith Change the Way You Think – Faith shifts our perspective from judgment to compassion, allowing us to see people through God's eyes rather than our own preferences.

- Faith Is Expressed Through Service – The four friends demonstrated their faith by carrying their friend to Jesus. Genuine faith moves beyond words and becomes action.

QUESTIONS:

1. The four friends were willing to go out of their way to bring someone to Jesus. Who in your life has gone out of their way to help you grow closer to God? How has their faith impacted yours, and who might God be calling you to do the same for?

2. The crowd was so focused on hearing Jesus that they failed to make room for someone who desperately needed Him. How can we become so focused on what we receive from church that we overlook the people God has placed around us?

3. The four friends didn't know how Jesus would respond, but their faith moved them to action anyway. Where might God be asking you to step out in faith, serve someone, or meet a need without knowing the outcome?

4. James 2 reminds us that faith without action is dead. Reflect on the way you spend your time, use your gifts, and serve others. What do your actions say about your heart posture towards serving and faith? What is one intentional step you can take this week to help someone encounter Jesus?

5. Philippians 2:3–4 encourages us to look beyond our own interests and consider the needs of others, following the example of Jesus. How might God be inviting you to reflect the heart of Jesus through serving your church, family, or community? What is one practical step you could take this week?

LIFE APPLICATION:

- Make Room for Others – Be intentional about noticing people around you who need Jesus. Don't let your own preferences or expectations become a barrier to someone else's encounter with Him. Give up your seat, be last, serve others.

- See People Through the Eyes of Jesus – Choose compassion and grace over judgment. Recognize that we are all broken and in need of a savior. The grace that Jesus extends to you should call you to humility and aid you in extending grace to every person you encounter.

- Put Your Faith Into Action – Make serving a way of life. Look for opportunities to serve at church, talk to the church about where you can step in and join a team. Find ways to serve your local community. Serve your friends, spouse, family, strangers around you. Don't wait for the perfect opportunity; let your faith move you to action.

- Help Someone Get to Jesus – Like the four friends, be willing to carry someone else's burden, invite them into community, and do whatever you can to help them take a step toward Christ.

PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

Thank You for the example of the four friends who were willing to do whatever it took to bring someone to Jesus. Forgive us for the times we have become so focused on ourselves that we overlook the people who need You. Give us hearts of compassion, eyes to see others the way You do, and faith that moves us to action. Holy Spirit help us become a church that makes room for people, serves others selflessly, and points those around us to Jesus. May our faith be evident not only in what we say but in how we live.

In Jesus' name, Amen.