

The Mission.....

Luke 5:17-26

The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged their lives, their _____ and their sacred _____ to fulfill their mission. The greatest mission in world history actually was planned before the _____ _____.

I. The Four Men and Their Mission.

The number of men is revealed in Mark's gospel. The four came, bringing a man on a pallet, to Jesus. This would have taken them time to accomplish this and effort as well. I imagine all four knew this man and had been assisting him in various ways. One thing was sure: they knew they had to get him to _____. Sometimes, it just takes ___ person, while other times it might take the _____. In this instance, these 4 knew what was needed and, thanks be to God, they acted upon it.

II. The Four Men Met _____.

When they reached their destination they encountered obstacles. The first obstacle was that there was a very large _____. So

large that they couldn't get close to Jesus. Imagine, during the Revolutionary War, if, after Nathan Hale gave his "one" life for his country, those comprising the Culper Ring decided it was too dangerous.

If you're interested in leading souls to Jesus, you will face obstacles. A second obstacle was actually getting their friend to Jesus. One of the four realized how to overcome that obstacle. They made their way to the roof of the house. The roof was an obstacle as well. It took removal of the building materials, mud, straw, makeshift tiles. Remember, the hold had to be large enough to lower the paralytic on the pallet down through that hole to the floor.

What, exactly, are you willing to do reach people with the gospel? That is our personal and corporate mission. Anything less than that makes the church a social club.

III. The Four Men Saw a _____.

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The men, refusing to be turned away by the obstacles, were able to see their mission completely realized. Their mission was to get their friend to Jesus. After that, it was out of their hands. C.H. Spurgeon said many years ago: "Where we end is where Jesus begins." Jesus' words reveal that He addressed the man's main issue first. Jesus declares the man's sins are forgiven. You might be thinking today that your sin is too great to be forgiven, maybe you've blasphemed, maybe you're an adulterer, maybe you've been living the life of an atheist or a practical atheist. It still only takes _____ word from Jesus.

Is it possible that today you have a spiritual paralysis? I am convinced our churches are filled with people who are bound in discouragement, disbelief and seeing every obstacle as immovable.

IV. The Main Mission: The _____ _ _____.

What if these four men knew about Jesus' power, knew that He had returned to Capernaum, knew that He was preaching in a

home not too far off and, understanding He was their friend's only hope...what if those four simply said "if he needs Jesus, he'll get there himself? What if Operation Dynamo, the allied mission to rescue thousands of troops surrounded at Dunkirk, failed because English citizens with boats decided to sleep in and just not show up?

Do you think that churches have the option to ignore lost people? Surely, if lost people need Jesus, they'll find a way without us.

The ingredient these four men had was that they understood there was one, and only one person who could make a difference for their friend.

Those four men made a difference in that one man's life.

Remember that God had One Son. He made Him a missionary. His Mission: To Seek and To save that which was lost. How can we not participate?