**2/25/24 How Much Do We Really Care? Mark 2:1-12**

* Are we being salt and light as Christ desire us to be in this sinful world?
* People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care!
* Knowledge without love and compassion is useless!
* America as well as other countries has shown through their history that they believe that power, politics and wealth are placed ahead of God.
* We should love God first and love your neighbor as yourselves!
* Even Jesus was dogged and persecuted by critics, who were constantly offended by His claims and resented His refusal to submit to their authority.

**Matthew 5:14; Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 22:36-39; 2 Timothy 2:15**

**1. Faithful friends are determined to help.**

* Jesus draws a connection between physical health and spiritual health.
* When Jesus came to town, people came in droves, and He preached a Word to them that they should repent of their sins and believe the Gospel.
* A group of true friends were not dissuaded by circumstances when they tried to get to Jesus.
* Throughout scripture people have been saying “Take Me to the King**”** because they understood the power of Jesus.
* The friends tore a hole in the roof to get the man to Jesus.

**Mark 2:1-5, 14-15, 17; Jonah 3:4; Acts 3:1-2**

**2. Religious-folk refuse to give Jesus glory.**

* There were two very distinct reactions to the message about Jesus. Some people were disturbed while others were delighted.
* The Scribes we offended by Jesus’ Words and called Him a blasphemer.
* To make His purpose completely clear, Jesus challenges the scribes to differentiate between forgiving and healing.
* We may not all be physically disabled, but we are all spiritually disabled because of sin.

**Mark 2:6-9; Romans 3:23**

**3. We must stay focused on the work!**

* The devil is always at work trying to discourage God’s people.
* Jesus did not let opposition to His ministry stop Him from completing His mission.
* Jesus basically said to the religious group, there is no visible sign of forgiveness, so I will show My authority in a tangible way by healing this man.
* The people all praised God saying "We've never seen anything like this before!"

**Mark 2:10-12; John 10:10**