

# Don't Give Up, Until You Get to Jesus

by Sandeep Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of persistence in prayer and faith in getting to Jesus, using the story of the paralytic man as an example.*

**Duration:** 26:03

**Scripture:** Mark 2:2-5, Luke 11:5-10, Luke 11:13

**Topics:** "Persistent Faith", "Spiritual Healing"

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## Description

This sermon delves into the story from Mark chapter 2 about the four men who brought a paralytic to Jesus, emphasizing the importance of persistent faith and prayer in overcoming obstacles and finding healing for areas of sin and paralysis in our lives. It highlights the need to have unwavering faith in Jesus, climb to the roof, dig openings, and keep lowering until we reach Him, demonstrating a deep commitment to seeking God's help for spiritual needs. The sermon also stresses the balance between persistent prayer and trusting in God as a loving Father, urging believers to prioritize seeking solutions for sin-related paralysis through fervent prayer.

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## Transcript

I want to share some things from Mark chapter 2. It's a story I think that's well known to most of us about four people who brought a paralytic with him and Jesus healed this paralytic. Mark chapter 2 verses 2 through 5. And many were gathered together so that there were no longer room. This is Jesus in his home even near the door and he was speaking the word to them and they came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men and being unable to get to him on account of the crowd they removed the roof above him and when they had dug an opening they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying and Jesus seeing their fate said to the paralytic my son your sins are forgiven.

You see that these four men were bringing a paralytic to Jesus but when they brought the paralytic to Jesus they saw that there was a dead end. There was no longer room even near the door. We find that Jesus is teaching the word, God is blessing other people, Jesus is blessing other people but for me and my paralysis my problem of the paralytic I can't get in.

The door is closed I can't even hear the words of Jesus. Other people are hearing the words of Jesus and being blessed but I'm trying to get in. My need is real.

I'm coming to the right person but I can't get in. I'm far away from him. There doesn't seem to be any room for me.

Not even the door to the kingdom of heaven may seem open. I have an area of paralysis. What do I do? What do these people do? What did these people do? What separated these men? Because it says in verse 5 that their faith, it was their faith that got this paralytic healed.

You see that very clearly in verse 5. It begins by us recognizing, knowing who's inside. Who are we trying to get to? It really comes down to who we think Jesus to be. So we're here, we're at the door, there's somebody speaking inside, there's rivers of living water seem to be coming from there.

Now we're stuck. We're at the door, nobody's letting us in. We don't seem to be able to get through this.

It seems to be no way for us to get in. The question is who do we see is inside? If we really see it to be this person, to be Jesus from who can come all the answers to all our problems. If we really genuinely see him to be the one who can give us rivers of living water, to be the fountain of life, that's the beginning part of where we must ask ourselves, do we truly believe who's in that house? Who's the one who's there? If we do, we won't stop with a closed door.

We won't stop when there's no room in the house. Even when we come to the door, we come with our paralytic and we see nobody's allowing us to get in. Oh, I guess I must not be good enough.

I guess I must wait for another season, listen to another message. You see these men didn't do that. Because of who they knew, how special Jesus was in all of the city, when they heard that he was home after he'd been traveling, he finally got home and they said, I don't care if I can't get in.

I don't care if the door is blocked. I'm gonna find another way around it. I'm gonna keep at it.

Because in this door, inside that house, speaking there is the one person who I know can help me. If I know that Jesus is the rest for my soul, come to me and I will give you rest. If I know that he has said it and he has guaranteed it, then there's nothing that will be a hurdle.

Nothing will be an obstacle for me to get to Jesus. So you see what these people did. I find that in scripture, when we find these people who are big in faith, I find that the scripture almost makes it sound so minimal of what they did.

But there's a lot of what they did. They climbed to the top of the roof. So step number one, they had to carry this paralytic man to the top of the roof.

I don't know how they got there but they had to get there. This paralytic man climbing to the top of the roof. Why? Because of who was in the house.

They didn't try to push their way through and convince people and get into a fight with people. They said that these guys also need to get to me near Jesus. It's stuck.

What am I gonna do? I'm gonna climb with this man on my shoulders or with the pallet or however they got to the top of the roof. They climbed to the top of the roof. Okay, so now I get to the top of the roof and then I remove the roof it says there.

Then there's another problem. Remove the roof and it's still nothing there. So what do I do now? Now I have to dig.

I have to dig an opening. I'm messing up somebody else's roof. Here are these people willing to incur the cost of I'll repair the roof right now.

I need to get to Jesus. This area of paralysis in my life. This area where there's no life moving.

There's no movement. Connected to the body but not moving. Climb to the roof.

Dig an opening. They could have stopped at different points. They could have stopped when the door was full.

They said let's come some other day. They could have stopped when they removed the roof. I didn't realize there was concrete underneath here.

I thought it was just a roof. And so they dug an opening. Not just any old opening where you can kind of drop a little note.

Jesus can you please see we're up here. They dug an opening so the man could fit through with his pallet. This is what is a five foot man, six foot man, whatever it is.

Big enough roof. That's a lot of digging. And how low did they lower it? I don't know.

One story? Two stories? I don't know. Until they got him to Jesus they kept lowering. There's a lot of work that these men did.

What does it mean to do all of these things? It is what we've been hearing all day today. Is to be so persistent. Is to keep on crying out.

It is to say Lord I have my whole list of tasks that I can do. What is it that you want me to do? And I have to take this to the areas of paralysis in my life. You know my dad has said something that the intention for the people of Israel was to go from Egypt to Canaan in two years.

That was God's plan. We heard about him testing them with the waters and the tree. But the plan was for God to take them from Egypt to the promised land in two years.

And the inference was in two years we should start be in the promised land where we're starting to defeat the giants of sin in our life. God doesn't take us to promised land to be defeated for years. Joshua and Caleb knew after two years.

I saw what happened with the tree in the bitter waters. I saw what happened with the Amalekites. I saw what happened with the Red Sea.

Giants just another problem. I know what can get God to my life in after two years. And I have to ask myself Lord have there been years and years and I have to take that to Lord how long have I been a serious Christian.

If it's been more than two years and there's still areas of paralysis I have to be extremely concerned. And I submit that to everybody here. Every single person who is a member of this church.

If there are areas of paralysis in your life and you've been a Christian for two years you have to ask yourself Lord what's the problem? How is it that you could lead Jesus constantly in victory and it's been years and I still am paralyzed in a particular area. Still struggling with some besetting sin or some sin that's constantly getting me down. I'm not saying that to condemn anybody.

I'm not saying that to discourage anybody. But you see what these men did when they were faced with a paralytic problem. In an area of paralysis in our lives I have to ask myself God am I willing to do everything because I know who's there.

I know who's behind that door. We had all those crowds of people who are getting to hear you. Lord Jesus I can't hear you but I will climb up on the roof.

I will dig an opening until I find you Lord Jesus. In connection with that I want to share this other passage in Luke chapter 11 which we've heard many times. I believe that this digging an opening, climbing to the roof, is a heart of persistent prayer.

It is where the Lord has been speaking in my life that this is the heart that separates those who find God and those who don't find God. It is deep consistent prayer. Luke chapter 11 Jesus is talking about prayer and he teaches us the Lord's Prayer but then he says now let me explain to you the attitude with which you must pray the Lord's Prayer.

We know that so many billions of people know the Lord's Prayer but not many people are praying the Lord's Prayer with the heart. The heart and the attitude with which we must pray the Lord's Prayer. The attitude with which I must pray the Lord's Prayer is written right after that in Luke chapter 11.

Right after he gives us the Lord's Prayer he says now let me give you the attitude with which you must pray the Lord's Prayer. The first attitude is in verse 5 all the way through verse 10 which is a man who has a friend visiting and he doesn't have any food. He goes to his neighbor's house who's also his friend and keeps snoring and we know that story and even though the neighbor says look it's too late I'm you know warm in my bed I don't want to go to the cold outside he says in verse 8 I tell you even though he will not get up and give anything yet because of his persistence he will get up.

That's the word persistence in the margin of my Bible it says shamelessness and I looked that up that's the only time that word is used shamelessness. How shameless are we? How persistent are we? I'm not talking about an arrogance I'm not talking about a petulance of a teenage child or the arrogance of that but how persistence that's that word God used to talk about how our prayer life must be now for what for what for our spiritual needs most Christians most Christians are taking this verse and applying it to physical needs or some earthly need Lord I have this sickness you need to heal me of it Lord I have this financial problem you need to heal me of this you need to solve this.

God is a magnificent solver of all problems physical financial emotional but the thrust of this verse is for our spiritual needs and that's what is that one of the differentiators about our church we primarily focus we had a visitor coming a few weeks ago and his feedback to me I wasn't in town he said I hadn't been to your church for years but when I but what I picked up about everybody who spoke here and you know we open it up to others was that everybody was speaking about their inner life they were not looking to Jesus to solve their earthly needs he'll solve it it's not a problem there's a couple of verses I need I can move on from it and that's the thrust of our church is that God must deal with our areas of paralysis when it comes to sin that's what God is interested in and we keep

underlying it is what are the areas of sin in our lives that are paralyzing us that's where we must have a persistence in prayer I don't need to spend persistence of prayer for drought and for sickness and all of those things I'm honest sickness won't take us to hell but sin will and so I must seek persistently persistently for the paralysis of sin in our lives and we find that most of Christendom is not even preaching about that and there's no begging God for the sin in my life that's been a paralysis for years that is why God doesn't answer our prayers see it's so clear here I tell you he will get up because of his persistence he'll get up as much as he need so I say to you ask everybody knows a lot of people know Mark Luke chapter 11 verse 9 ask and it will be given to you seek and you

shall find knock it shall be given to you but nobody's asking with that kind of persistence nobody's going to God saying I have the doors closed I'm going to climb to the top of the roof with my paralysis as burdensome it is I'm gonna dig an opening for the area of sin in my life I'll go to God for months for my child's healing and years for my child's healing I'll go to God for months and for years and there's a constant burden Lord I hope my children get good grades in schools and they go to college and they get married to the right person all of those things I'll go for years with the burden but there is a paralysis of sin in my life an occasional prayer here and there it doesn't even match the burden that is why we find that our paralysis of sin continues and we have ups when things

go well I get a promotion I get a bonus things go well my life and there's downs and it doesn't seem to be going my way and I apologize for raising my voice but I find that I fear that even in our church that there can be that sense of not being so laser focused and not burdened with the paralysis of sin in our lives and that our prayer lives are burdened about earthly things compared to our burden for what's paralyzing our spiritual lives that we've been years as Christians and continuing to have paralysis and I'm not here to speak in trying to condemn anybody I'm trying to show you from Mark chapter 2 how to get out of it there is a answer that Jesus is to all of the areas of paralysis in our lives but it means a fundamental shift of our priorities it's a fundamental shift in what we

value and we must repent for rejoicing more at earthly things that God blesses us with while areas of paralysis in our spiritual life language we must repent and say God I want to completely shift to be uninterested by the earthly pleasures and earthly benefits you give me it came from your hand but I want to be more and more uninterested by these earthly things and more tremendously bothered by the areas of paralysis in my life that is sin when we have that attitude and God says look it's in relation to prayer that God says pray for how it'll be your name your kingdom come your will be done and pray with this kind of burden that climbs up on top of the roof because Lord my spiritual life is a paralyzed man when I pray this prayer there's no power in it I don't pray with the deep burden

of this I climb up on top of the roof I'll dig an opening I'll do what I need to do when the Lord sees this kind of persistence I say to you ask and it says they ask and keep on asking that's what it means in that word word ask ask and keep on asking keep seeking keep seeking so what if it's a three-story building that Jesus in and he's all the way in the basement climb to the top and start digging and if you find another break keep digging in prayer I thought of this picture I don't know those of us who grew up in India and definitely if you've gone to some of the villages there are these places where even in Jesus's time there's a well where you get water and you've gone to these places where you lower a bucket and in the water hit the bucket it's the water and then you pull it up and

you got water and that's how you get your water I don't know if you've been there but there's so there have been a couple of wells I've been to where you can't even see the water you have to keep lowering and like

you look nothing's just black stark but you keep lowering because you know people have gone there before heroes in the faith have gone to this well before people have gone before me have gone there before and they found that this well has water in it Jesus says that he who comes to me will never thirst again are you thirsting for something Jesus said you won't thirst anymore you'll find rest Lord I don't know how deep this well is but I know that men of God have gone to this well you and I found water so I'm gonna keep digging I'm gonna keep lowering this bucket Lord it's been

years doesn't matter Lord I'm gonna keep coming to you climbing this mountain seeking this life that this paralysis an area of sin in my life must be healed keeping on lowering that bucket it depends on who you see is inside who do you think is in the basement of this ten-story building who is there is it really Jesus is he at the bottom of this well is he that water then and keep lowering it don't give up that persistence in prayer for the areas of Paris and seek him seek him and sing Lord surely I'll get water if I find if I keep looking for you you will do this this is an attitude of prayer that our hearts must have the other balance to that is in verse in Luke chapter right after that he says now let me balance that there must be an infinite persistence and he uses a very big a very

strong story to talk about this man who's knocking on the door and the man is saying hey look I don't you want to bother to waking up God says keep on hitting it because you're gonna feel when you're dealing with some areas of paralysis of sin because you're knocking on God's door and God's not answering and God's answering other people but you're not being answered don't give up keep banging in that door climb to the top of the roof start digging and lower yourself humble yourself humble yourself humble yourself in your area of need until you find Jesus and then he says let me tell you another part of that same attitude of prayer that deep persistence he says here's the other side of it if you ask if a son asks for fish which earthly father will give him a snake if you ask for an egg

will you give him a scorpion no if you verse 13 Luke chapter 11 verse 13 if you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your whole your children how much more shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those asking what's the Holy Spirit for to make you holy sins the paralysis of sin it's very clear that's what our prayer lives ought to be like let's investigate our prayer lives what have we been praying for what have you been burdened about for the paralysis of sin in my life and the paralysis of sin in our church's life and in our family's life or is it for this job and that health and this situation let's ask God for the Holy Spirit but let us also even as we are determined and non-stop praying for God with that persistence for our own needs and for the paralysis of sin

in our relatives and in our co-workers let us pick up that dogged persistence that irresistible persistence as it comes to God for our own needs our own spiritual needs and the spiritual needs of our relatives our family members who don't know the Lord let us carry them to the top of the 50th floor and let's lower them in no matter what it takes 50 years 70 years Lord I will keep praying but then let me also believe 11 through 13 I have a heavenly father I have a heavenly father who the voice of who speaks come my beloved he's not a hard task master I must balance these two I must not be I must not be intimidated by the logical I can't put these two thoughts together the dogged persistence and God being a loving father don't trust our eyes as we heard don't trust your logic and be like I

need to figure this all out go 100% with persistence and go 100% with God as a loving father go go all at it with both ends that's how Jesus lived with it he lived with loud crying and tears in Hebrews chapter 5 but he always called God father as we walk the Christian life saying God I want 100% of both in my life I can find the balance as we've heard from all day today the balance between the procrastination of one and the

other and then the balance of Lord I don't want my task list I want your task list the balance of constantly crying out as we heard in Hebrews chapter 5 and the balance of God will complete the work God is the one who's planted the tree many years ago that tree has been planted by God that's how much he loves us but he's testing us who's going to be the one who'll

climb up to the 10th floor sometimes you go on and the door is wide open and you go right fly right through the heart to the feet of Jesus and he solves your problem we've all experienced that something in our life we prayed and two minutes later it was answered what happens when the door is closed what happened when it's full what happens when you have to climb three stories what happens when you have to dig an opening God's still your father God hasn't changed who he is he planted that tree many years ago but he's testing us do they want this more than anything else they want it and I I fear that I may want God most and more most and more most things sorry and I want God more than most things most of the time I'm a good Christian most of the time I want God I don't want to be a most of

the time Christian I want to be all in all the time no matter when the door is open or when the door is closed when there's five stories or 50 stories if there's the roof that opens right up or I have to dig an opening and I don't care how low I have to lower this area of paralysis I want to keep going knowing that God is my father there you go help us

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