

CARRY ON

INTRODUCTION

In our lives, you and I will know hurt and uncertain tomorrows. We may suffer and experience tragedy, yet we can face the future expectantly. We may have to wait a while for the full experience of the good that God intends for us, but God is fully committed to every one of His children.

DISCUSSION

Read Mark 2:1-12

How have you carried your friends, and how have your friends carried you?

How did this inspire hope?

EXPLANATION

Is there any crowd anywhere that you trust?

Do you really believe you can trust Jesus?

Have you ever had a time when you felt Jesus wasn't going to help you?

Did you ever come to the realization that by not 'helping you' in the way you thought He was actually offering you a better hope?

APPLICATION

Who do you show your weakness and struggles to?

Who do you ask to pray for you?

Who do you let see your brokenness?

Who helps you understand HOPE?

MISSION

Do you have any idea what your faith can do for a friend?

Can your friends trust you to keep them safe?

How?

Can you trust your friends to keep you safe?

How?



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2 Corinthians 1:7

Romans 12:12

Mark 2:1-12

John 9:1-2

Acts 2:46-47

Proverbs 23:7

Matthew 7:1

1 John 4:20

Matthew 22:37-40

Week 7

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



CARRY ON

2 Corinthians 1:7 *“And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.”*

The only significant difference between hope in the Old Testament and the New Testament is that the New Testament contains additional facts about the fulfillment of our hope. Facts that God chose to not reveal to his Old Testament people. Knowing more of his magnificent gifts tells us even more than they knew about the giver, the God of the universe. When we know how good God is, we can only respond with grateful praise and worship, as we are moved to awed wonder by the extent of his love. But it is always our sovereign and loving God who is the ground and focus of our hope. As Hebrews reminds us, “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful” (10:23).

In our lives you and I will know hurt and uncertain tomorrows. We may suffer and experience tragedy, yet we can face the future expectantly. We may have to wait a while for the full experience of the good that God intends for us, but God is fully committed to every one of His children.

As long as our hope is in God, we have hope. And a future.

In Mark 2, there is a paralyzed man on a mat whose friends show him hope by having a deeply seated friendship. The paralyzed guy probably goes through a lot to be friends, but, in order for someone to help you, you have to be vulnerable. The gift between friends:

- Trusting vulnerability
- Dependable faithfulness.
- Unwavering hope.

Wherever people love and serve in the face of weakness and need true fellowship is found. We will never live in true community until we come to grips with the fact that we all have a “mat” in one way or another.

Urie Bronfenbrenner’s definition of a family is “A group which possesses and implements an irrational commitment to the well-being of its members.”

To offer hope in this way it takes 2 things:

- Noticing
- Doing
 - When you see a discouraged friend (send a note, make a phone call).
 - When someone needs to talk, take time to listen.

Jean Vanier: “A community is never there just for itself or for its own glory. It comes from and belongs to something much greater and deeper: the heart of God to bring humanity to fulfillment. A community is never an end in itself; it is but a sign pointing further and deeper, calling people to love.”

When we are in community as God intends, somehow our sin surfaces and gets dealt with. Jesus is fulfilling the man on the mat’s (and his friends) deepest desire because, when we truly love God, we want nothing else than to have our friends come to know God.

Paul Wadell: “In a spiritual friendship the principle good is a mutual love for Christ and a desire to grow together in Christ. This is what distinguishes spiritual friendships from other relationships.”

Jesus said God is constantly thinking about His people. God’s mind moves to people the way a shepherd looks for his lost sheep and the way a poor woman searches for a lost coin...that should inspire great and deep hope and great and deep friendships.

AGAPE (LOVE FEAST)

Sunday, November 20th OR

Wednesday November 23rd.

Sign up for our Thanksgiving Service which will be hosted by each of our Gospel Communities!

