

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

GREG STIER

"GETTING OUR FRIENDS TO JESUS"

Greg Stier expounds on the costly risk of the four friends of the Paralytic man who was healed by Jesus in Mark 2:1-11. What does it mean for us to risk it all to get our friends to Jesus?

MESSAGE OPENER: One day Hudson Taylor was traveling on a Chinese junk from Shanghai to Ningpo. He had been witnessing to a man named Peter who rejected the gospel but was under deep conviction. In the course of events, Peter fell overboard, but no one made any effort to save him. Taylor sprang to the mast, let down the sail, and jumped overboard in hopes of finding his friend. But no one on board joined Taylor in his frantic search. Taylor saw a fishing boat nearby and yelled to them to help, but they wouldn't do it without money. Finally, after bartering for every penny that Taylor had, the fishermen stopped their fishing and began to look for Peter. In less than a minute of dragging their net, they found him, but it was too late. They were too busy fishing to care about saving a drowning man.

We can easily condemn the selfish indifference of those fishermen, but by indicting them, we may condemn ourselves. Are we too busy with school and our own hobbies to take the time to rescue those who are perishing without Christ?

(Kenneth Cole, The Crucial Message. From a sermon by Gerald Flury, Why Are You Standing Around? 8/16/2012) <http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-sermon-central-staff-stories-evangelismurgency-83309.asp>

READ: Mark 2:1-11

WATCH: Greg Stier—Momentum 2014. 38 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/GettingourFriendstoJesus>

KEY POINTS:

Worth it. We must see it as worth it to be willing to do whatever it takes to get our friends to Jesus. Look at the commitment of the four friends of the paralytic.

Risking it all. It probably took from twenty to forty minutes to cut out the roof. This was a huge risk. They could have been told to stop, they risked humiliation, they risked rejection. On top of that, these men were literally cutting the support from underneath them. But they faced the risk and kept going.

Commit up. Greg shared his story of sharing the Gospel for twelve years with Uncle Richard. It took commitment and prayer. It took a heart which was dedicated for the long term. It took perseverance.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

#crazystupidstuff What is your crazy stupid stuff? In today's passage in Mark 2, if these four guys were to use this hashtag, what would their crazy, stupid, story be? Why do you think they did it? What was the "crazy stuff" Jesus did for us? Philippians 2

God-shaped hole. There is a God-shaped hole in each of your friend's heart. Our attitude must change to see it as worth it to bring our friends to Jesus (even if it is difficult). What holds us back from adopting this mindset? How many of your friends do you think face this God-shaped hole?

#48hourchallenge Today's action point is to consider who in your circle of friends that you can reach out to within the next forty-eight hours. Which of your friends come to mind when you hear this challenge? What can you do to reach out to them in an authentic way? Who, at youth group, can you share your 48-hour challenge with? Ask them if they would pray with you as you take up this challenge, offer to pray for them as they take up the challenge.