

Encountering Christ

Wk 2

Dropping in

Purpose: For students to put themselves in the shoes of those who encountered Christ and choose how they would respond.

Passage (s): Mk. 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

Topic: How do you respond when God shows up/ Christ reveals himself?

Ricks Devotional: Many times we encounter Christ and miss it, but more times than we'd like to admit we encounter Christ/ or God @ work and we choose not to respond. The goal over the next few weeks is to paint some biblical pictures of people encountering Christ and hang the question in the air, what would you have done, how would you have responded. What are you doing now?

This week we're looking at incident when Jesus healed a man who couldn't walk. From this passage we see the strong desire and courage of the lamed man's friends to get their friend well. They responded with such hope for their friend and in what Christ was doing they cut a whole in someone's roof to make it happen.

1) they respond to God w/ faith and hope, that *He wanted to make their friend well*

The second group of people there, was the pharisee's. They were not there to be a part of Christ ministry, but rather to question it and how it was being done. They believed that only God alone could forgive sins and didn't believe Christ was him. Because of that, Christ rewords his blessing of healing so that if they didn't think he was God before they would have another opportunity.

2) they respond with resentment, question and possibly jealousy

The third group of people, or in this case person, that was there was the man who was healed. Scripture doesn't tell us that Jesus physically touched him, but only spoke to him two phrases; "your sins are forgiven" and "get up, take your mat and walk".

3) he responded with obedience

The last group of people that we see is those who are actually witnessing this. They've listened to Jesus preach, they've heard his message to the pharisee's and they've watched the miracle.

4) the crowd responds with praise to God

Each group of people or person encounters Christ that day, many for the first time and they all responded much differently. Although the challenge for the students is clear, the same applies to us. May we not be so near sighted to how God works, that we don't recognize Christ and/or the Holy Spirit when we encounter Him.

Small Group:

Option A;

1. Why is it many times we only respond to God when it's convenient, we need something etc?
2. What was it about the groups of people that separated their responses?
3. If you were there that day, which group would you have been in?

Option B:

1. Think of some times when you responded to Christ as part of each group?
 - a. What were some of the consequences?
 - b. What did you miss out on?
 - c. What were some of the benefits?
 - d. . How/what/ if did God surprise you with?