

# Be A Helper

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Some of the people who approached Jesus during His ministry were healed as a result of their own individual faith and persistence. Examples of individuals asking Jesus to heal them are the hemorrhaging woman (Matt. 9:20) and the two blind men (Matt. 9:27). Interestingly, there are more recorded instances of Jesus healing people who were brought to Him by others or who approached Him on behalf of someone else.

Mark chapter 2 describes a situation where Jesus healed a paralytic man who was physically carried to Him by four men. Apparently, it was not the paralytic's faith which resulted in him being healed but the faith and persistence of the four men who carried him to the roof, opened a large hole in the roof, and lowered the man and his bed into the room where Jesus was teaching. *When Jesus saw their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven* (Mark 8:5). The faith of those four men resulted, in part, in the paralytic being healed and his sins forgiven.

These examples of people being healed by Jesus through the initiative of others demonstrate their faith in Jesus just as clearly as those who later publically proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God. It took great effort and ingenuity for these four men to cut a hole in the roof of the building large enough for a bedridden man to pass through. The other examples, such as the father's appeal to Jesus on behalf of his epileptic son (Matt. 17:14), and the gentile woman's plea for her severely demon-possessed daughter (Matt. 15:22), equally show their faith.

Knowing that Jesus acknowledged the faith of those who helped others and brought people to Him should give us added incentive to be active in helping people with their physical and spiritual needs. It doesn't require great knowledge to be a helper but it does require faith and effort. Paul wrote, *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart* (Gal. 6:9). Likewise, let us determine to be helpers by bringing people to Jesus and caring for their physical needs as we have opportunity.

For the elders,  
Don Denton