

## Episode 6: Indescribable Compassion

**While you watch:** As you watch this episode, mark off each person and the main events that happen in the show. This will help to keep your focus so you can pay close attention to each character that is introduced.

### Characters:

- Matthew
- Leper
- Nicodemus
- Little James
- Quintus
- Tamar
- Simon
- Shumel
- Jesus

### Events:

- Leper trying to sell possessions to a merchant
- Quintus promotes Gaius and takes advice from Matthew
- Jesus meets Tamar
- Jesus heals the leper
- Crowd listens to Jesus speak
- Paralytic is lowered through the roof
- Jesus heals the paralytic
- Shumel questions Jesus's authority
- Jesus sees Matthew

**Reflect on the episode:** Jesus is ready to heal people! Can I get an Amen! He kicks it off by healing a leper and then heals the paralytic man who comes down through the roof. What an introduction to Jesus.

The episode starts with a leper trying to sell his possessions to a merchant. The merchant knows that the leper is in a difficult position with his illness and takes advantage of him by only offering a fraction of the value it is worth. It is unfortunate that the merchant takes advantage of this situation, but luckily the leper's day is about to get so much better.

The leper comes across Jesus and his disciples. He pleads for Jesus to heal him and guess what Jesus does? He clears up his leprosy and changes his life.

- **Mark 1:40-43 (ESV)** – <sup>40</sup>And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean. <sup>41</sup>Moved with pity, he stretched his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." <sup>42</sup>And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. <sup>43</sup>And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once. <sup>44</sup>and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them."

To be a leper is to be an outcast. You were considered unclean and rejected by society. Have you ever felt rejected by someone or group of people?

Has the fear of rejection held you back in your faith? If so, how has it held you back?

How does knowing that Jesus is with you, give you comfort when you feel rejected? Can changing your mindset by knowing Jesus is the only one that matters, heaven is the only thing that matters, help you with your fear of rejection?

---

*Did you catch that Tamar and Jesus both grew up in Egypt? After Jesus was born he was hunted by Herod when he was 2 and then fled to Egypt. He didn't go to Nazareth until Herod died. See Matthew 2:13-15 for the details.*

---

As Jesus went back to James and John's house people started showing up asking questions and listening to Jesus speak. The crowd started to get rather large, so much so that it attracted the attention of the Roman guards and Pharisees.

Tamar and four friends arrive to see Jesus, but due to the large crowd, they cannot get close to Jesus to have him heal their paralytic friend. Tamar then takes the group to the roof so they can lower the man into the room with Jesus. If you can't use the door, just go through the roof! Read through the scripture below and fill in the blanks.

- **Mark 2:2-5 (ESV)** – <sup>2</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was \_\_\_\_\_ the word to them. <sup>3</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by \_\_\_\_\_ men. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their \_\_\_\_\_, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
  - This is also mentioned in Luke 5:17-25
  - The dedication of the friends for this paralytic man is so inspiring. These friends literally ripped off the roof and lowered their friend to Jesus' feet so he could be healed. Do you have people like this in your life? If so, let them know you are thankful for them. Do something nice to show your appreciation. If not, or if you could use more friends like this, consider investing more time in your relationships. Foster closer relationships with people around you so you will have someone who is willing to literally tear the roof off to help you. Reflect on this below.

The Pharisees/ scribes observed the healing of the paralytic man and instead of being in awe, they start to question in their hearts whose authority Jesus has to say "Your sins are forgiven". Read the scripture below and circle where the scribes were experiencing the questioning. (*hint – verse 6 and 8*)

- **Mark 2:6-12 (ESV)** – <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the paralytic – <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." <sup>12</sup> And he rose immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

As you circled on the previous page, the scribes had these negative thoughts in their hearts. They did not keep a check on their heart. **Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)** – *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.* What do you have in your heart? Is it negativity or positivity? What you focus on is what is in your heart and it flows into everything that you do. What are some ways you can keep your heart in check?

Have you ever been so concerned with rules or “your plan” that you missed something good happening right in front of you? We can get so wrapped up in our to do list, in our lives that we miss the beauty of God all around us. This is what was happening to the scribes at the healing. They missed the miracle. This could happen to us if we stay too rigid to allow disruptions to our lives and things to happen that differ from our expectations. We miss the wonderful things that are happening around us. Take some time today to thank God for all that you have and all the blessings he has given you. Write a short prayer below:

---

*The bible does not reference explicitly that Tamar is part of the healing of the leper and the paralytic man. We do not know if she observed these miracles and if the paralytic man is her friend. We also do not know if Matthew witnessed the healing of the paralytic man, but maybe it is possible since Matthew accepts Jesus invitation to follow him directly after the healing of the paralytic man. (Mark 2:13-14)*

---