

REMOVE YOUR ROOF

I want you to come into this message *with - High expectations - a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future.*

- I want you to put **your mind** in a state of anticipation
- I fully believe that God is going to work a ***work in our midst today***
- I have come to cause you to **“exercise your faith”**

Exercise means to use - - -

*If we **do not exercise*** then we become slow, fat, and lazy in the natural sense

*If we **do not exercise*** in the spiritual realm of faith, then we can become **weak and ineffective** Christians.

Exercise your faith today - - -

Stretch out of the comfort zone of your current expectations

Move into the operation of God's power in your life

Let all your worries and cares sweat away this morning

We are **exercising our faith**

Mark 2:1-12- NKJV - Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

2 And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

² Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

³ Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*.

⁴ And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they **uncovered the roof** where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, ***your sins are forgiven you.***” ⁶ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? ***Who can forgive sins but God alone?***”

⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?”

⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” —He said to the paralytic,

¹¹ ***“I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”*** ¹² ***Immediately*** he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ***“We never saw anything like this!”***

But there are some **truths to be gleaned** from this passage of scripture

There are some **important points** that need to be mentioned from this passage of scripture

There is an **example** and **template** here - - - That **we can learn from and apply** to our own lives and situation.

*****Jesus was in the house - Vs1 - And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.***

Jesus **entered into** the city of Capernaum

- This was the hometown of Simon Peter
- It is **more than likely** that this was the house that Jesus went to.

Jesus goes to the house of **the believer**

- Peter was **Jesus’ disciple** - He **followed Jesus** everywhere!!!
- ***So when they came to Peter’s house Jesus went inside***

If you want **Jesus in your house** - - -You’ve got to **be a believer** - You’ve got to follow Jesus

Jesus doesn't just go to anybody's house:

- I am sure there were nicer homes in the city of Capernaum
- There undoubtedly were richer men than Peter

Jesus didn't go to any of their houses - He went to the house of his follower!

- It doesn't matter how much money you have
- It doesn't matter how famous you are
- It doesn't matter what position you hold in this life

The only thing that matters is, do you have Jesus in your house?

Church, the most important thing is, do we have Jesus in the House?

- We're not the biggest, best known, program filled church!
- That's not important – because we've got Jesus in the house!

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****It was noised: vs1 People heard that Jesus was in the house!!!**

Vs 2 - Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

- So many came that the house could not contain them
- We've got to let people know that Jesus is in the house
- We can't keep silent or still - We've got to witness and testify

What happens when people find out that Jesus is in the house?

There were so many coming that the house could not contain them...

- If we let people know that Jesus is here in "MY CHURCH" ---
- **Revival will follow** - So many that we will not be able to contain them all.
- We can't keep silent - - Jesus is in the house!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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****The Paralyzed man - - vs 3 & 4**

Vs3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*.

Vs4 And when **they could not** come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

Notice the situation - So many people around the house that nobody else could get close to Jesus.

- These four guys have a friend that is paralytic.
- Whether he was born this way or became this way -
- Through sickness or accident **the Bible does not specify.**

They know they need to get to Jesus...

People know what they need - - - When you get desperate – you find Jesus.

- Churches were full on 9/11 because people were desperate.

They can't get to Jesus the ordinary way, so they climb up on top of the house and remove the roof.

- The obstacles were before them – But they didn't let that stop them
- The crowd didn't part to allow them to come to Jesus
- So they made their own way!!! - - - They took the roof off of the house!!!

There had to be a part of their minds that was saying –

- This is crazy - - -This is expensive - - -this is not going to work.....
- But they took the roof off....

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***Take the Roof off - - -A roof is a metaphor for a limit

In the business world, when you have advanced as far as you are going to, they say that you have reached your ceiling

- In some cases with prejudice or sexism, they describe it as a "glass ceiling"
- This is your limit, you can't go beyond this
- No matter how hard you work or how qualified you may feel - - -
- You have reached your limit – your ceiling.

In 2011 we found out that the United States has a debt ceiling

- This is as *high as we will allow the debt to go* –
- Then they changed it - But a ceiling was in place to limit the national debt.

In the aeronautics world, the ceiling is the maximum altitude that an airplane can travel.

At that altitude the plane's engines *do not receive enough air to continue* to function, and the plane can go into a stall and crash.

That's the ceiling – *that's the roof!!!*

It's your limit – *where you can't go beyond this point.*

Take the roof off!!!

These men must have been thinking some things as they climbed up to the roof.

- This is crazy - This is expensive - This is hard and long - This is not going to work.
- These are all roofs on our lives today!

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****Faith says to step out into the impossible!**

Crazy is stepping out of a perfectly good boat in the middle of a storm.

- But *faith says – I can walk on water with Jesus*

Crazy is bringing five loaves and two fishes to feed five thousand people

- But *faith says – Jesus will provide*

The apostle Paul put it this way – I have become a fool for Christ

Faith is in the realm of the crazy –

That's just a roof that you need to tear off of your life

Tear that roof off your life by-stepping into what God has called you to.

****Faith says no cost is too great**

In the natural sense the destruction of the roof must have been quite costly.

- We're going to have to pay Peter back for tearing up his roof.

No cost is too great to receive what we need from Jesus by faith.

In our lives we face costly decisions.

It's time to tear that roof off your life!

- Tear the roof off your finances through faithfulness to God.
- *I tore the roof off* my finances
- My family has been faithful in tithes and offerings.

We are faithful to God, so I can expect God to be faithful to me as well.

I am not the only one that is stepping into the blessings of God this month.

Those that are faithful are starting to receive the benefits of their faithfulness.

Jobs are being opened up – provision is being made – miracles are happening all around us –

Why because we have been faithful to God - - -

CORINA – is a faithful saint

DYLAN – Loves God & is Faithful

FRED & SANDY SHULTZ – Loves God and is Faithful

TODD FIELDS – Healed by Jesus' stripes – faithful to God

DAVID & KELLEY RICHWINE - Healed by Jesus' stripes – faithful to God

MARK & LISA - Faithful servant of God

The Inheritance and bonus - Faithful people that took the roof off!!!

****Faith says I will see this through - In the natural sense tearing a roof off is hard work...**

There was effort and sweat involved - Maybe there were some cuts and splinters

To be sure, the roof did not come off quickly

In the spiritual sense tearing the roof off of your faith takes time

It is in the daily walk with God - It is in your personal prayer life

It is in enduring through trials and hardships

Tear off the roof of sin today!

The Bible describes **the Holy Spirit as rain**

Some people **don't feel the rain** of the Holy Spirit - - **Because** they are **under a roof of sin**

They've put up **barriers of iniquity** between them and God!!!

When **the presence of God is moving** in the service they sit unaffected, because **the roof of sin is on their life...**

- **It's time** to tear that roof off today...
- **It's time** to get right with God...

Faith says I have **no doubt** - As the men were tearing off the roof, I am sure they were thinking – **what if** this doesn't work?

- **Doubt** *tried* to worm it's way **into their minds**
- But **they kept tearing at that roof**

Your mind is going to say – **what if it doesn't work** for me?

- **What if** I **step out in witnessing** and **nobody listens?**
- **What if** I **become faithful in tithing** and **end up worse than before?**
- **What if** I **reach for Jesus** this morning **and don't receive.**

The enemy will try to plant **doubt and fear** into your mind.

When you **don't believe**, you don't **pull the roof off...**

Doubt leads to inaction - Faith spurs us into motion....

IT'S TIME - Tear **the roof of doubt** off today!!!

I told you to raise your expectations this morning:

Not **What if** I **step out in witnessing?** – **I'm going to go** to Bible Study

NW! I **become faithful in tithing?** – **I will be faithful** and God will provide for me.

NW! I **reach for Jesus today?** – **I will receive** the Holy Spirit

NWI I come to the altar? – God will heal me!!!

NWI I pray for my lost family? – God's going to save them all.

NWI, I've fallen too far for Jesus to reach me? – His grace is enough for me

NWI I ask Jesus for his touch today? – I will receive what I need today –

CLOSE:

When the roof comes off - Vs5 - When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

When Jesus saw their faith –

- He saw the hole in the roof - Sins were forgiven - Miracles took place...
- Come on saint of God – Tear your roof off this morning!

Maybe like the four men in Capernaum - - -

- You are tearing the roof off for someone else this morning.

Their faith affected their friend...

Maybe you can take someone that is going through something this morning by the hand and like those men bring them to Jesus.....

If you are ready to tear the roof off of your faith this morning - come to this altar right now!

Tear it off your finances - Tear it off your sickness - Tear it off your situation - Tear it off your unsaved loved ones...

Tear it off your witness and revival

Tear it off your heart and your salvation

When you tear the roof off - - - YOU receive what you need from Jesus Christ!