

the Venues

Go Deep

Friendships in a Facebook World

7.16.17

Mark 2:1-5

How many Facebook friends do you have?

When was a time a friend really helped you when you were in need?

1. We were created to connect.

“We are all connected; to each other biologically; to the earth, chemically, to the rest of the world atomically.” Neil DeGrasse Tyson

“Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else.” Leonardo DaVinci (1452-1519)

How do these verses fit into that “connection” thinking? **Colossians 1:17; Ephesians 4:6**

Scientists tell us that all humans are genetically 99.9% alike.

How does that science trivia change how we see each other?

How then do we account for all the inhuman ways we treat each other?

Read Genesis 2:18.

What does this verse say about the cliché many of us have heard and been taught, “Jesus is all you need?”

Science shows that the friendships are good for our health, as strong as exercising and quitting smoking.

So, how healthy are you?

Read Mark 2:1-5

What do you see as the main point of the story?

What elements of the story really stand out to you?

What does this story teach us about friendship?

The paralyzed man had it pretty rough. Society devalued people with special needs. Aristotle advised, “Let there be a law that no deformed child shall be raised.” The theology of the day was that sickness and physical/mental challenges were punishments from God for sin. The man faced all sorts of prejudice.

How is that scenario similar to what people believe and how people act today?

2. Who’s carrying your mat? Everyone has one.

The “mat” can be a metaphor for whatever stuff we’re carrying - fear, anger, lust, greed, hurt, a secret...

something that makes us feel broken. Carrying a mat requires transparency (Willingness to let people see your stuff, and trust (A feeling of safety with your friends).

What quality do the four men possess that impresses you the most?

What characteristic do you value most in a friend (loyalty, good humor, compassion, honesty, understanding, attitude.....)

Take a look at Mark 2:5.

Whose faith did Jesus see?

What was the result of “their faith”?

What does this story tell us about how people are “saved,” “come to Christ,” “receive forgiveness of sin”?

How can the group pray for you this week?