

CARRY YOUR CORNER

"Born of four", Mark 2:3

I. Observations on the incident

1. Those who would be helped by Christ must come to Him.
 - A. It is not enough to hear of Christ
 - B. It is not enough to seek help from those who are near to Christ; the crowd around the door could not help the sick man.
2. There are some who will never find Christ unless brought to Him by others.
 - A. This poor sick man could never have reached Christ without the help of the Faithful Four.
 - B. Those who cannot do more can do much by bringing lost friends under the sound of the gospel.
 - C. Earnest perseverance in seeking Christ will overcome the greatest difficulties.
3. The Importance of Cooperation in Christian work.
 - A. As in the family and state
 - B. A handful of organized and disciplined soldiers can disperse an armed mob of 20 times their number.
4. Everyone has a corner to carry
 - A. So with these four men
 - B. Not one of them loafed
 - C. God does not expect you to carry all corners, but he does expect you to carry one.

II. How We Should Carry our Corner

1. Cheerfully
 - A. Grumbling has a bad effect on outsiders
 - B. It demoralizes your fellow workers
 - C. It diminishes your own spiritual strength
2. Steadily
 - A. Not dropping your corner every now and then to attend to something else
 - B. Regular even though nameless
3. Bravely
 - A. Little ^{Weak} Faith can always multiply objections and magnify difficulties
 - B. We must not give up
4. Prayerfully

III. What Happens When we carry our corners
as we should in the church:

A. Even the most difficult cases find cure.
B. We have the privilege of caring for cases
of need, even when we are "rushed to death".
There is one thing worst than being
"rushed to death." That is NOT being
rushed at all. The each life to which no
interruptions come is an EMPTY life.

C. The faith of ~~faithful~~ christian workers
is rewarded. We do not know the names
of these four men: No matter.
They played their part in the cure of
a body and soul.

When Jesus saw THEIR faith, he said...
It was THEIR FAITH which caught the
attention of Jesus.

It was not the faith of the paralytic,
although we may presume that he also
had faith.

D. What joyful rewards these four men no
doubt felt when the man they brought
was healed and forgiven.

There was also joy among the angels of
God when this man entered the kingdom.

E. They must have been so very glad that
they didn't give up when they got to
the crowded yard. They didn't set the
bed down and say, "Well, that's that.
We're sorry, old fellow, it's tough luck."
They were persistent.

They had set out to get their friend to
Jesus, and they got him there.

When one way was blocked, they tried another.
When one attempt failed, they made another.

F. They learned that the greatest cure is
the SPIRITUAL ONE. We have neglected
spiritual values in our day.

We have made oil more important than
blood, national prestige more important
than human welfare, land and money more
important than people. We need a spiritual
cure, not just a physical or economic one.