

God is giving us an opportunity as a church to step out in faith, and sacrifice and give not just for our needs, but also for the needs of others.

3. God rewards faith. God rewards us when we step out in faith. **Read Mark 2:5 again.**

Look closely. When Jesus saw “their faith,” that’s speaking of the friend’s faith. Then Jesus turned to the paralytic and healed him. When we step out in faith we have the amazing privilege and opportunity to partner with God. Not to mention, God rewards our faith.

Read Hebrews 11:6 together as a group.

- 1) Faith is our opportunity to partner with God, choosing to be His vessel of love and power on the earth.
- 2) Faith is the bridge we can walk on to make a mark, to leave a legacy.
- 3) When we step out in faith and put our faith on the line, God meets us. Think about it, the friends faith was strengthened because they realized that God used their life to see someone healed. Not to mention, the paralytic got healed.

That is what *Legacy* is all about. Living to make a mark with your life, a mark that lasts.

Question: *What specific action(s) can you do immediately to contribute to the Legacy God would want you to leave?*

Personal Application

What opportunities has God placed in your life to have faith for and serve others? What do you need to build into your life to believe God to meet not only your needs, but give sacrificially to meet the needs of others? What kind of Legacy do you desire to leave?

Prayer

Pray that God would put the desire in our hearts to live in faith, believing Him for all that is necessary to complete the plan He has for our lives and our families, and would enlarge our faith to be willing to give and serve sacrificially.



Week 4 – Faith That Sacrifices

Announcements

ACTS Expo – May 22-23 | LCC & NCC
IDENTITY Junior High Camp - May 30-June 2 | Eunice, LA
Men’s Breakfast - Wednesdays | 6:15am | Benedict’s Restaurant
Newcomers Dinner – May 23 | 6PM | Benedict’s Restaurant
Vacation Bible School – June 7 – 11 | GCC
Kids Camp - June 21 – 24, June 28 – July 1 | Camp Living Waters | Loranger, Louisiana
Promotion Weekend – May 29-30 | All Campuses

Warm-Up

When you recognize a need in someone else’s life, how do you react? What moves you to action?

Many people have physical and spiritual needs we can meet either by ourselves or with others who are also concerned. When we learn to appropriate God given faith, we will see things change for the better.

Word

Each of us face challenges in life that can seem overwhelming and impossible. It is during those moments that we come to terms with truly how limited we are in our own humanity. Yet, we see in the Bible, how God routinely steps into

impossible situations and turns things around. The interesting thing about that is, God doesn't do it without somebody believing Him and trusting Him for the miracle.

Question: *How can we live a life where we partner with God in seemingly impossible situations turned around?*

We began this series looking at the bigness and the greatness of God. The message and lesson challenged our perception of God and showed us some places where we might be making God much smaller than He really is. We learned that not only is God big, but He has big dreams. We see in the Bible how He chooses to work through frail, imperfect people to bring His dreams to pass in the Earth. Two weeks ago, we learned how fear, failures and disappointments, and even our own over-satisfaction hinder our faith as we push to seize the dreams of God.

Question: *During this Unlimited Series, what has challenged you the most about faith? What has God been showing you about your faith?*

Through today's lesson, **Faith that Sacrifices**, we learn how, some of the time, our faith is not just for ourselves, but for others.

- 1) Faith and believing God is not just trusting God for our own needs.
- 2) God has us on this earth for a purpose – and that is to live beyond ourselves. As you give your life to others, you will find a more satisfying life.

Read Luke 9:24

Our call in the kingdom is not just to fulfill our own dreams – to have a great family, a great business, and great kids. There are moments when God calls us to sacrifice for the needs of others.

Let's look an example of faith that sacrifices for others.

Read Mark 2:1-5, 12 together as a group.

- 1) We can see these friends were 100% convinced that Jesus could heal.
- 2) They went to some very extreme measures to get their friend to Jesus.

Let's look at some final thoughts on a faith that's *Unlimited*.

1. People matter to God. When we see the value God places on other people, when we see how important other people are to Jesus, our faith should be energized.

Question: *What are we willing to do to help meet the needs of those that are disadvantaged or can't help themselves?*

Those four friends realized that Jesus cared about people. That's why they were so determined to get the man to Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is in the business of caring for, loving, and healing people. When a church gets filled with the same kind of love, the love of Jesus, that church starts looking for ways to bring people to Jesus. Why? Because Jesus loves to help people. And a healthy church should be a place where people can meet Jesus.

We can never lose sight of the fact that the heartbeat of God is people. Jesus came, to seek and save those who were lost.

Question: *How can we experience a heartbeat like God's?*

2. Faith takes a risk. Faith does what it has to do to reach people for Christ. Faith goes beyond just the expected or required. Faith goes the extra mile. Another way to spell faith is **R-I-S-K**. Think about the paralytic. He was a man that had dreams in his hearts, desires and aspirations for life. But he could never fulfill them because of his condition. Thank God his four friends realized what life is about. It wasn't just about them having their own needs met. They realized how valuable people are to God and they took the risk. They took their friend up on a thatched roof. They could have been injured themselves. But they were willing to take the risk for the chance of their friend receiving his miracle.

Question: *What are some ways we willing can sacrifice our temporary comforts for the health of others?*

God has an assignment for us to believe for others, to reach out to others, and to give for others. That's what this whole bible story illustrates. People used their faith, and sacrificed their time, their energy for the help of someone else.