



## Shameless Audacity

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***Mark 2:1-12; Luke 11:5-8***

### OPEN

Do you think we use the phrase *I'll pray for you* to carelessly?

When you think of someone in your life, who takes praying for others serious, what stands out about them? What is different?

### DISCUSS

Take a moment to share if and how your prayer life has changed since we started this sermon series.

- New disciplines?
- Challenges/progress?

### PRAY

Before you read the scripture have someone pray, to invite God's Holy Spirit to open your hearts to receive His Word and to move within and throughout your group.

### DISCUSS

Read Mark 2:1-12

- Imagine you're in the crowd. Describe what you're experiencing.
  - How's the atmosphere?
  - Who's there?
  - What are the four men doing to get their friend to Jesus?
  - What is Jesus' first words to the man and why do you think this is?
- From carrying their friend to lowering him into the room, where they can no longer be by his side, what does this tell you about their faith?

Read Luke 11:5-13

- What is taking place in this parable?
- Why and to whom is Jesus telling this story? (Luke 11:1)
- What do we learn about God's love and generosity? (Luke 11:13)
- How can we apply these messages from Mark and Luke to our own prayer life?

From the book *Love to Pray* by Alvin VanderGriend we read:

"God seeks intercessors not because He lacks the wisdom or power to govern the world without them but because He, in His sovereign good pleasure, has chosen to govern the world through the prayers of His people."

What are your thoughts on this quote?

How does this influence or change the way you view our call to pray, or the responsibility that comes with the phrase *I'll pray for you*?

## **PRAY**

Lord, bring to our minds someone who is truly on the mat right now. Give us the courage to ask others to truly share with us the weight of that person's burden. Help us to be faithful in carrying that person's concerns to you, step-by-step, past the roadblocks, onto the roof. Encourage our spirits to dig down with shameless audacity, daring to ask what we believe is best, but trusting your great love and your long view of history for what is needed most. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Who's *on the mat* in your life?
- What steps are you willing to take to carry this person in prayer?
- Who could take a hold of the mat with you?
- What do you want to ask Jesus to do for him/her?
- Like the men letting go of the mat, be willing to trust Jesus.

For resources on prayer, please visit <https://www.cc-ob.org/prayerresources>