

Lowering others down to Jesus

My co-worker friend seemed to be a bit weaker each day. The cancer that was eating away at his body had left him emaciated and in constant pain. He finally began to wonder if it was God's time to take him home. The doctors that supervised his case were very grim about his chances. Everything in the circumstances pointed to a very slim chance of him surviving the surgery to remove the tumor. It broke my heart when he told me the thing he would miss the most was being unable to someday walk his daughter down the aisle when she was married.

Each day it seemed he would grow a bit weaker and soon his faith in God's healing power began to waver and become weak as well. I tried to think how I would react and began to realize that my faith might begin to weaken too if I'd faced all the issues that he was experiencing. A small group of us began to pray for him.

I recalled the four men that lowered their crippled friend down through the hole in the roof they had made with their bare hands. They lowered him down and Jesus healed the man not because of his great faith, but the faith of his friends. What a beautiful picture of what the body of Christ should be like. There are times when each of us feels overwhelmed and faithless. It is then that others must be willing to get their hands dirty and lower their friend down to our Lord for His loving hands to touch and heal. I can imagine the four men carrying their friend to where Jesus was, only to find they could not get into the entrance due to the crowd. I can see the men frantically climbing up and then digging through the earthen roof with their bare hands. I can hear the people below complaining as the debris began to fall down on them from the ever widening hole that was appearing in the roof above them. I can hear the paralyzed man's protests telling them not to lower him down since he could not be healed anyway. But the four men were not to be denied. They persevered until they had that man in front of the Lord.

We likewise realized that we needed to lower our friends down in prayer. We need to get our hands dirty and even cut and bleeding to take them to where they need to be. Our friend miraculously recovered and is hopeful that someday he will get to walk his daughter down the aisle. He is now beginning a long road of recovery.

^{MK 2:1-5} A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Richard Lewis
Pathway Christian Church
Riverside, CA