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**DGM Message Title: In the House**

**Concept: The Purpose of the House of the Lord**

**Message Summary:** The purpose of having or getting to the House of the Lord is to bring those into the house that may not know God. People need to have an experience with God to become all that they were meant to become. If we can just look past our differences in church and see those who desperately need God...those who wouldn't get Jesus any other way than through us deciding to link up with others and bring the sick, paralyzed, troubled, and lost to the Him!

**Scriptural References:**

- Mark 2:1-12
- Deuteronomy 32:30
- Matthew 18:20
- Matthew 16:18
- Isaiah 54:17

**Key Points:**

- Why is church attendance important?
  - We should create an environment for God to show up, regularly.
  - If you are looking for a deliverer, a friend, and a savior, God is in the house.
  - Desire to have more than just an experience with people, but that they know that God was truly in the house and experienced God.
- Mark 2:1-2
  - When you look for a church home, you should be looking to see if Jesus is there.
  - Jesus had logistical problems, just like churches today, but it did not stop Him from doing what was needed, nor should it stop us!
- Mark 2:3
  - Four men had to get involved in order for the paralytic to receive his healing.
    - There is no such thing as a self-made person.
    - We exist because of those who came before us to prepare the way.
    - You cannot just pull yourself out of the abyss to make it.
    - Every kind deed, every word of encouragement, every mountain and every bully you had to face was the raw material God used to mold you into what you are today.

- We all need each other.
- The only reason this man made it to Jesus is because of 4 strong men.
  - They got together and coordinated their efforts for this one man.
  - **This is why church is so important.**
    - **Individually, we can do great things, but together we can do so much more!**
    - We all have a part to play in each other's story.
  - They were willing to overlook their difference to help one man get what he needed.
- Church is about carrying someone else to Jesus.
  - It's helping someone else get to where they need to be.
  - It's not about the building or even the parking.
  - It's about us assisting and dealing with someone else's weakness when they do not have the tools to get there.
- Mark 2:4
  - Have you ever had the legitimate needs of others drown out your own needs?
    - Your children
    - Your spouse
    - Your job
  - **True friends always find a way to help; fake friends will find an excuse!**
    - These four men refused to make an excuse for not getting to Jesus.
    - We can make excuses for why our communities are not being impacted or we can do something about it and help find a way to reach and love the community with the love of Jesus Christ.
  - It's important to have people in your life that will not take "NO" for an answer.
    - Especially when it comes to getting you back onto your feet
    - In looking at the church, people may see a struggle, but by God's grace people will never see us give up.
      - We understand that in the struggle, God is on the other side pulling us on through, even though we don't see His hand. We can still trust Him.
  - This man's breakthrough came at the hands of those willing to help and him allowing others to help him.
    - **Don't be shy about asking for help; it doesn't mean that you are weak, it only means that you are wise!**
  - **Religion says that God will only love me if I change, but the Gospel says: God loves me already and His grace will help me change.**
    - Bring people just as they are with their complaints and arguments, and eventually those things will slide into the background.
    - We cannot fix ourselves first, we must come to God just the way we are.
    - Don't be afraid to tell God the truth. Don't try to dress it up, let it come out just the way things are; simply confess what God says your sin is.
      - We have to become so comfortable and have the same attitude as God with calling sin what it is!

- You will get God’s attention and help.
- When we start hiding, defending, rationalizing and excusing the things that we know better about...
- Guess what? God already knows what you did before you tell Him, so you being honest with Him is not helping your case at all!
- God wants us to know: think back to when God asked Adam where he was in the garden.
  - Did God not know where Adam was?
  - Adam didn’t know where he was, and God wanted Adam to identify where he was!
  - Adam realized he messed up. He was afraid, and he tried to hide himself from God.
  - When Adam confessed to God that he was afraid and hid as a result, God continued to listen to him.
- We have to be honest with God if we expect God to continue to listen to us and help us, because He ultimately is the only One who can fix it!
- Mark 2:5-9
  - When Jesus saw their faith (demonstrating their faith by uniting and overcoming whatever differences they may have had),
    - **He released healing!**
    - We must get over ourselves, our differences, for the cause of the one we carry to Jesus.
    - There is a vision and a mission that is larger than your politics, ethnicity, personality type and gender -- it’s bringing people to Christ.
  - Jesus immediately called the paralytic “son.”
    - Signifying a relationship.
    - We are family—the church is family.
      - We are brothers and sisters of the Most-High God.
  - This Scripture is why we call God “Almighty.”
    - The weak NEVER forgive.
    - **Forgiveness is only the quality of the STRONG.**
  - The Greatest Miracle that God performed was in Himself.
    - He will remember our sins no more.
    - How does a being who knows everything – omniscient – suddenly not know something?
    - God in Himself, took His hand to cover our sins and cannot and will not look behind it, although He knows and sees everything.
    - God will restrain even Himself and blot out every one of our transgressions/sins.
    - Only God can do that!
    - *He that cannot forgive other breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself; for every man has need to be forgiven.* – Thomas Fuller
  - The Greatest need of the human soul is forgiveness.
    - We know when we do wrong.

- But God in His omniscience (His greatness) chooses to forgive us. So, why can't we believe Him for the little things?
  - He is a just God, but still covers us by His mercy – this is the Strength of the Almighty!
  - *There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love.* – Bryant McGill
- Mark 2:10
  - The greatest miracle was not creation, but God's self-restraint .
    - God doesn't have to restrain Himself because there is bad or darkness in Him. He does so to show His love toward us & blots out our sins so that He doesn't even remember.
- Mark 2:11
  - Jesus is not in this house to put anybody down, He's in this house to lift people up and make you into something you never thought that you could be.
  - When you take time to go to Jesus' house, He will make sure that you don't go back to your house the same way!
    - But you need people to get you to the house.
    - **If you get to the house, you can experience change- that's what about church is about.**
    - **Church is about bringing people into the presence of God.**
  - The challenge is wherever you have people, you have problems.
    - People fail to realize that the church is a hospital.
    - People are recovering & not all the way there yet.
    - **People are always going to say stuff and probably prick you, but are you at church for the people or the Christ?**
  - We all must come together to make a change in our communities and this world.
    - No one person can do this alone. It takes, offense, defense, a quarterback, receivers, etc.
  - Church is for:
    - The man in the stretcher
    - The one who is paralyzed
    - Those in the highways and the byways to bring people to God's house
    - NOT about making you feel good
- Mark 2:12
  - All of our lives, there will be haters, and doubters and non-believers. Then there will be Jesus proving them all wrong.
  - This is why we come together in church: so people can say, "I've never seen anything like that!"
    - People, once confused, find purpose
    - Angry people find joy
    - Peace in marriages restored
    - Medical situation be turned around
    - Broken person receives restoration and healing

- The Bible tells us that 1 can put a 1,000 to flight, two can put 10,000 (**Deuteronomy 32:30**). The result is exponential.
- When two or three agree, there God is in the midst (**Matthew 18:20**).
  - That promise is for the two or three.
  - But in order to receive that promise, I must get over “me.”
- Jesus said to Peter, the gates of hell will not prevail against my church (**Matthew 16:18**).
  - The reason we are defeated is because we are fighting by ourselves.
  - When we come together as a community, as the Church of God, “no weapon formed against us shall prosper” (**Isaiah 54:17**).
  - The power is found when we come together. We can go to a place in God we cannot get to on our own.
  - It’s amazing what happens in community that can’t happen by yourself.
    - This is the power of church.
- Yes, we are an imperfect people, and we will never get it all ironed out, but we can love each other and get past differing personalities, mindsets, and opinions – don’t be so sensitive, because it is NOT ABOUT YOU.
  - It’s about this world going to hell.
  - You need to get past your little pet peeves for the larger good.
  - **Does that paralyzed man matter enough?**