

The Paralytic's Amazing Friends



Ponderings & Reflections

Chapter Two — When Ministry Plans Go Awry!

1. Just because we feel led to go on the offensive for the Kingdom doesn't mean the resultant journey will be easy, linear or go (some-what) according to "plan." How many highly fruitful ministries had to first endure a lean, circuitous, "dashed dream" phase before the idea/dream/plan began to take root and bear fruit? That's why we need to hold our ministry plans loosely. When we formulate our Plan A, it's good to have our Plans B and C in the wings because our Plan C may well be God's Plan A!
2. Have you ever thought about the paralytic as he went through this experience? Contextual restoration of the narrative helps us read between the lines, get inside the text, identify with, and then become those we meet in the passage. As a result, these (no name) people become more than a passing word or two on a page as we relate our human condition experiences with those we meet in the text. If you had been this paralytic, what would have been some of the thoughts and emotions that might have flooded your mind and soul as you overheard your four friends discussing/debating this plan to carry you to Yeshua for (possible?) healing?
3. When it comes to new ministry ideas, do you tend to be one who instinctively resists? "Champions" can be easily misunderstood (and even resented) in the Body, especially if the status quo is being challenged. It can be particularly lonely being a champion of notions that confront long-entrenched paradigms; e.g.; missions, discipleship, Christian education. Would you consider affirming someone in your Fellowship this week that persevered in a new ministry/project/task when many/most others ignored, resisted, or were quietly unsupportive?
4. What speaks to you in this Reflection?
5. **Closing (Reassuring) Thought:** In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9