

The Paralytic's Amazing Friends



Ponderings & Reflections

Chapter Eight — Woe to You Capernaum!

1. Do you resonate with “Context rescues truth from the ‘familiar’”? What implications does that reality have for your Bible study and small group?
2. Have you sometimes wondered, “If only I could have been in Capernaum with Jesus to experience His miracles and teaching, my faith would be so much more vibrant.” Didn’t seem to make much of a difference to the vast majority of town folk in Capernaum. What would have made you an exception?
3. Seen any miracles in God’s Kingdom lately? Best place to encounter them is wherever hands-on ministry is happening. What’s your hands-on ministry involvement these days?
4. Like the people in Capernaum with their flawed paradigm of Messiah, where might we be prisoners of our respective Western paradigms in our churches and ministries today? Prisoners of outdated mission’s paradigms? Of anemic notions of what constitutes effective Adult Christian Education? Hampered by a stunted understanding of what “the priesthood of ALL believers” was intended to be? Prisoners of our clerical paradigm of pulpit and pew? Hamstrung by our meager notions of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus as well as what it means to make disciples? If so, how can we break out of those inhibiting paradigms we (unknowingly) accept and even passionately defend?
5. What speaks to you in this chapter? In the overall encounter?