

HOW TO BE USED BY GOD

Romans 1:9 (GW) “I serve God by spreading the Good News about His Son.”

Philippians 1:27(LB) “Remember always to live as Christians should, so that...you are standing side by side with one strong purpose--to tell the Good News.”

Luke 5:17-26 (Mes) “One day Jesus was teaching (in a home) Pharisees and religion teachers were sitting around. They had come from nearly every village in Galilee and Judea, even as far away as Jerusalem, to be there. Then some men arrived carrying a paraplegic man on a stretcher. They looked for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. But when they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus!”

Impressed by their bold belief, He said, ‘Friend, I forgive your sins.’ That set the religion scholars and Pharisees buzzing. ‘Who does he think he is? That's blasphemous talk! God and only God can forgive sins.’ Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking and said... ‘Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do this...’ He now spoke directly to the paraplegic: ‘Get up. Take your bedroll and go home.’

Without a moment's hesitation, he did it—got up, took his blanket, and left for home, giving glory to God all the way. The people rubbed their eyes, incredulous—and then also gave glory to God. Awestruck, they said, ‘We've never seen anything like that!’”

Romans 15:7 (Mes) “Reach out and welcome one another to God's glory. Jesus did it; now you do it!”

I. BECOME CONCERNED _____.

Romans 15:2 (GW) “We should all be concerned about our neighbor and the good things that will build his faith.”

1 Corinthians 10:24 (GW) “People should be concerned about others and not just about themselves.”

Colossians 4:3 (NCV) “Pray that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message.”

Psalms 126:5 (NIV) “Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”

II. BELIEVE THAT _____.

Luke 5:20 (NIV) “When Jesus saw their faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’”

Hebrews 7:25 (GN) “Jesus is able, now and always, to save those who come to God through him...”

Mark 10:27 (LB) “Without God, it is utterly impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

III. _____ TO JESUS.

Matthew 9:2 (NCV) “They brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and lying on a mat.”

Colossians 4:5 (NCV) “Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity.”

Luke 14:23 (KJV) “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

IV. DON'T LET DIFFICULTIES _____.

Galatians 6:9 (LB) “Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.”

2 Peter 3:9 (CEV) “... God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.”

VI. DARE TO _____.

Luke 5:19 (Mes) “When they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus!”

Hebrews 10:24 (Mes) “Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out.”

Colossians 4:5 (LB) “Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News. Be wise in all your contacts with them.”

VI. WORK TOGETHER _____.

Luke 5:19 (NCV) “...they went up on the roof and lowered the man on his mat through the ceiling into the middle of the crowd.”

VII. BE WILLING TO _____.

1 Corinthians 9:12 (GW) “We haven't used our rights. Instead, we would put up with anything in order not to hinder the Good News of Christ in any way.”

Luke 16:9 (NIV) “Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

Ephesians 2:19b-22 (Mes) “God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what He is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone!”