

Daily Devotional, February 2, 2021 Finding a Way

“Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.” Luke 5:18-19 (NIV)

In this familiar passage about Jesus healing the paralyzed man, we read in verse 19, “when they could not find a way...” The men carrying their paralyzed friend were not discouraged by the difficulties and obstacles that kept them from getting to Jesus. Instead they came up with a creative option to accomplish their goal of getting to Jesus by cutting a hole in the roof and lowering the man down to Jesus.

I must confess that I have actually sat during a church service looking up at the ceiling and wondered how I might react if suddenly people were cutting a hole in the ceiling! Can you imagine the mess that would make? And just imagine how surprised and frightened we would all be sitting down below? Nonetheless, I have always admired the creativity of these men who decided to make a hole in the roof, in order that they might find healing for a friend.

Sometimes “finding a way” means that we must look beyond the normal and everyday methods to life and seek new ways of thinking, acting or believing to break down barriers and to encounter what God has in store for us. For example, think about the creative ways that our church family has dreamed up to reach our membership and beyond in bring our worship services to all of you through our livestream. Most of us would never be able to reach hundreds of people with God’s message of love and hope on our own. It requires the combined efforts of each one of us involved giving our talents and gifts and time and prayers to bless lives.

The same could be said for our different members who continue to bring many of our education and fellowship ministries through mostly zoom in order to keep our membership connected as a church family. Thinking past what had always been normal helps us to continue to be nourished in unconventional yet practical ways.

The next time you are frustrated with a problem or situation, take it to God and ask God to help you “find a way.” Trust God to give you new ideas, new opportunities or new resources to “find a way.” And if you ever get discouraged along the way, reach out to others in your family of faith and together we can creatively think of ways to work through the barriers or obstacles that we face in life. That’s what a caring family does.

Prayer: Dear God, grant me the creativity and openness to tackle problems in my life and the world around me trusting that you will give me direction for myself and for others who may need help in finding the way. In Christ’s name, Amen.