



# SUMMER AT AN ENCOUNTER

## PICKUP YOUR MAT

July 4, 2021

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### MESSAGE NOTES

*As He went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" — John 9:1–2*

*"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." — John 9:3*

*But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. — 2 Corinthians 12:9*

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body. — 2 Corinthians 4:7 – 11*

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the Word to them. Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So He said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" — Mark 2:1 – 12*



## DISCUSSION

- What spoke most to you from the message on Sunday? Why?
- What story stuck out to you most? Why?
- Why do we sometimes feel that brokenness makes one unusable?

### Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

- What do you think “My grace is sufficient for you..” means? (2 Cor. 12:9)
- What about the phrase , “Made perfect in weakness”? What does that mean?
- Discuss some ways that God has been strong in your “weakness”?
- How have you seen God glorified in weakness? Maybe yours or someone else’s?

### Read Mark 2:1 – 12

- What is the most significant aspect of this story to you? What sticks out? Why?
- Describe a time in which God gave you what you needed rather than what you wanted. How did you come to view the needed gift over time?
- Why is restoration to God the most important thing the world needs? How would things be different if more people were truly restored to God?
- This man’s friends went to great lengths to bring this man to Jesus. How might we emulate their example?
- How can you help others feel that their brokenness is not a fatal flaw that will keep them from a loving relationship with Jesus?