



Sunday 19th June 2016

Noddy Sharma

Read together Mark 2:1-12 .

1. Discuss why did the Israelite's leaders reject what Jesus did for the crippled man even though they saw it with their own eyes and why were they so different to the crowds of people who also witnessed the miracle?
2. Noddy said if you Google the words "Why are Christians so ", the first suggested search term will be "Why are Christians so mean?". Why is this so, when it is acknowledged even by radical atheists like Richard Dawkins that he sees great works being done around the world as in Africa by Christians? Why doesn't the world see Christians as "peaceful, loving, forgiving, accepting etc? Discuss this and what should we be doing about this.
3. Noddy said "some people have stopped referring to themselves as 'Christians' - instead they call themselves 'Jesus followers' because Jesus came with a ministry of love". Discuss this idea and whether you think changing our title will help us to overcome criticism by others. What else could we do to help spread the gospel in a negative climate?
4. Noddy asked "What was it that was holding this crippled man back from being healed and having the pain removed?". Are we guilty of not wanting to hand over our lives to Jesus because it will mean we have to address problems in our lives such as broken relationships, addictions, envy etc? Can we be guilty of becoming transactional – for example "God if you will do this I will do that"? Do we ever think "God you owe me one"? Discuss.
5. Noddy also said "Jesus gave His life to call you back into a relationship – He died on the cross so you could live." and quoted Barrie Sutton "You are loved, you are forgiven, you are set free". What does this mean for us in living our lives daily – how do we get the Gospel truths across to an often hostile world?

