

WHAT HURTING PEOPLE NEED MOST

MARK 2:1-12

The best thing we can do for someone who is suffering is to _____

Matthew 15:22-28; Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:1; Hebrews 11:6; James 5:14-16

Why does Jesus often answer our prayers in such unexpected ways?

■ Because He is more committed to meeting our _____
_____ than to meeting our _____.

2 Corinthians 4:18

■ Because He wants to use us to _____
_____.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11; Philippians 1:18-20

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. Which of these statements better reflects your feelings when you have experienced suffering?
 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
(King David)
 - "Why is God so present a Commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent in times of trouble?" (C.S. Lewis)
2. Read Mark 2:1-12. Which character in the story can you relate to most? Why?
3. What does this passage have in common with Matthew 15:22-28 and Luke 11:5-10? What truth do all three passages teach? How would you grade your faith, based on these verses?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:18. How should having an eternal perspective change our prayer life?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-11? When have you seen Christ bring greater glory to Himself by allowing someone to continue suffering rather than by alleviating their suffering?
6. What, besides fervent intercession, have you found that hurting people need most?