

Second Monday of Advent, December 6

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17- 26

Although there are numerous lessons to be learned from the story of the paralyzed man, the one lesson that stood out is the importance of community in our lives. The men carrying the paralyzed man put forth incredible effort in trying to help their friend. Despite being unable to get through the crowd and reach Jesus, the friends of the paralyzed man showed they were willing to do whatever it took to help their friend.

Several months ago, new nurses were hired and added to our team. We immediately meshed well together as a group. It became very fun to work through the day and interact with patients knowing I had a great group of nurses supporting me. Since these new nurses were added, I have looked forward to going to work and have had a positive attitude about my job. It became obvious how important our community is in everything we do. Of course, I desire to be a great nurse that provides quality care to my patients. No matter how strong this desire is or how hard I work on my nursing skills, I cannot achieve this goal by myself. I need the help of so many others to teach me, support me, challenge me, guide me, and uplift me.

We have this need for community in many aspects of our lives, especially our faith. Regardless of how much time is spent reading scripture or praying in private, our faith does not reach its full potential without the inclusion of others. Without a priest's homily, we may miss the important message God is trying to convey in a particular reading. Without a friend's advice, we may stray from our walk with God. Without a family member's support, we may lose faith in our connection with the church. Just like the paralyzed man could not seek out the needed help of Jesus without his friends, we cannot fully pursue our relationship with God without our community.

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