



Listening Guide

Big Idea

When someone matters enough, obstacles become opportunities. We do whatever we can to bring people to Jesus—because Jesus can do what we cannot.

Key Scripture

Mark 2:1–12

Supporting Scriptures

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 • Romans 12:1 • John 10:10

1. Somebody Has to Pick Up the Mat

Mark 2:3 — Four men carried a paralyzed man to Jesus because he could not get there himself. Ministry begins when someone says, “You’re not staying here. I’ll help carry you.”

Memorable statement: “That’s ministry.”

There are people all around us lying on invisible mats. The question is whether we see a person—or an interruption.

2. Our Love Must Refuse to Let the Crowd or Circumstances Have the Last Word

The crowd blocked the way to Jesus, but the men found another way. We will never change the Gospel to reach people, but we should be willing to change almost anything else that unnecessarily keeps people from hearing it.

Whatever it takes: Change the method. Cross the culture. Give up the preference. Accept the inconvenience. Learn another language. Serve another generation. Try something new. Go somewhere uncomfortable.

3. Our Faith Expression Sometimes Looks Like a Hole in Somebody’s Roof

“When Jesus saw their faith...” Their faith became visible through action. They spent energy, sacrificed time, risked embarrassment, and worked together to bring someone to Jesus.

Memorable statements: “Faith that costs me nothing will carry no one.” “Sometimes worship sounds like a song. Sometimes worship looks like four people carrying a mat.”

True worship is faith made visible through obedience.

4. They Brought Him for One Thing. Jesus Saw Something Deeper.

They brought a man who could not walk. Jesus first addressed his deepest need: “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Jesus sees the whole person—not merely the presenting problem.

Carried → forgiven → restored → walking → home. **That’s transformation.**

John 10:10 reminds us that Jesus came that we might have life—and have it abundantly. TLC’s ministry focuses on the whole person.

5. We Carry the Mat. Jesus Changes the Life.

We are not people’s saviors. We don’t heal, forgive, fix, or transform them. We help get them to Jesus.

Memorable line: “We carry the mat. Jesus changes the life.”

- You don’t have to save your children. Carry the mat.
- You can’t fix your friend’s marriage. Carry the mat.
- You don’t have to answer every theological question. Carry the mat.

- You cannot deliver someone from addiction. Carry the mat.

Paul's approach in 1 Corinthians 9:22–23: “by all possible means.” Whatever it takes—without compromising the Gospel.

6. TLC's Why

Transformation Life Church exists to bring people to Jesus so they can experience the abundant life He came to give them.

- Truth tells me where Jesus is.
- Relationship makes me care about the person on the mat.
- Good works make me grab a corner.

7. Closing Response — Who Is on Your Mat?

Identify one person God has placed on your heart. Find three other friends who will grab a corner of the mat and work together to bring that person closer to Jesus.

- **PRAY** — Pray for them by name every day.
- **CONNECT** — Make intentional contact.
- **SERVE** — Do something tangible that communicates love.
- **INVITE** — Create an opportunity to move them one step toward Jesus.

Carry your corner.

Final Declaration

WE CARRY THE MAT. JESUS CHANGES THE LIFE.