



## **“Let us love one another.”**

Healing the Paralyzed Man - Mark 2:1-4, 11-12

The birds in the giant tree were singing a beautiful song. Granny B and Lello were sitting in the grass below enjoying the melodies while they waited for Delbert. In her lap, Granny B held her brown leather Bible. The leather was soft, worn with time and a beautiful purple ribbon marked the page of a special story she planned to read to Delbert and Lello.

“Where is that little donkey?” Granny B wondered out loud.

Lello looked around carefully. She quickly jumped up and called out, “Delbert... Delbert. Where are you?”

Just then they heard a familiar call, “Hee Haw!”

Lello gave a big smile. “I see him, he’s almost here!” Granny B spotted Delbert and waved him over.

Delbert could see Lello and Granny B smiling at him, but he didn’t smile back. He was deep in thought. Granny B noticed and asked, “Delbert, is everything okay?”

Delbert paused, “Granny, my friend Beaker broke his wing.”

“Is Beaker the sweet little duck who likes to splash in the stream?” Granny B asked.

“He sure is,” Delbert replied. “Now his wing is broken and it’s in a cast.”

“What’s a cast?” Lello asked.

“It’s a special kind of bandage that helps bones heal,” Delbert replied.

"Oh," said Lello. "What does heal mean?"

Granny B smiled and answered Lello, "Heal means to make it all better." Then she turned toward Delbert. "Is that all that's on your mind?"

"Well, no. My mommy and daddy told me to help Beaker. And, I know if I was hurt, Beaker would help me. But ... but I don't know what I can do to help," Delbert said sadly.

Granny B and Lello looked at each other. They didn't like to see Delbert so sad. They knew they had to help him think of ways to help Beaker. Lello spoke first. "Delbert, I have a few ideas. You could help him wash up before dinner. With only one wing, he may have trouble doing that. Or you could bring him some of his favorite snacks."

Delbert lifted his head and began to smile. "You're right, Lello."

"I know another way to help Beaker," Granny B said. "You could pray for him."

"Pray? I guess I could, but will that really help Beaker?" Delbert asked.

Granny B picked up her Bible and opened it. "Let's look in the Bible and find out. Here's the story I was going to tell you today. It's in the book of Mark, chapter 2." Granny B began to read:

When Jesus came home, a lot of people gathered around to see Him. Four men were in the crowd. They were carrying their friend who could not walk. The men couldn't get into the room where Jesus was teaching; it was just too crowded. So they climbed up onto the roof and made a hole above the room. They lowered their friend down on his mat.

"What did Jesus do?" Delbert interrupted.

"Listen to this," Granny B smiled and continued reading. "Jesus saw the man and told him to get up, take his mat and go home. Right away the man was able to stand up and walk all by himself! Everyone was amazed at Jesus' miracle."

"Wow. The man on the mat sure had four special friends to do all that for him," Delbert said softly.

Granny B smiled, "You're right, Delbert. The Bible says, 'Let us love one another.' Those four friends certainly loved the man on the mat."

Delbert thought for a moment. "So the men knew they had to bring their friend to Jesus to be healed?"

"That's right, Delbert," Granny B answered.

"But Granny B, the men brought their friend to Jesus when Jesus was inside a house. I can't do that!" said Delbert.

Lello was thinking quietly. Then she perked up. "I know! Jesus is in heaven now, so you can bring Beaker to Jesus by praying to Jesus!"

"What a great idea, little one," Granny B said sweetly as she gently touched the lamb's soft nose.

Meanwhile Delbert was jumping up and down, "Of course! Of course! Jesus can heal Beaker's wing! I need to run over to the stream right now! Thank you, Granny B! Thank you, Lello!"

Delbert ran over to Granny B and nuzzled against her. Granny B reached down and rubbed behind his ears. Then he galloped off toward the stream.

Lello and Granny B looked at each other and then at Delbert; they started to laugh. They were so glad they could help Delbert. The two sat back down under the giant tree and leaned against each other. Lello asked Granny B, "Can you read where it says, 'Let us love one another' in the Bible to me?"

Granny B nodded, opened her Bible, and began to read again. The two friends spent the rest of the afternoon reading and listening to the birds sing.