

MARK 2:1-12 THE PARALYTIC MADE WHOLE

INTRO:

In the earlier verses in Mark he wrote mostly with the physical body, the deliverance of the demoniac in the temple, the healing of Peter's mother in law, the multiple healings in Capernaum, and last week the healing of the leper but now Jesus heals not only the body but more importantly the soul.

Last week we spoke on the leper and leprosy being a picture of sin and the sinner.

Also last week I mentioned signs and wonders were not the main priority of His ministry but the proof and validation of Who He said He was, and of what He said, now we see Him moving into the main thrust of His coming to save the souls of men, to free us from sin and the curse and sting of death.

I am sure there were many miracles again when Jesus reentered Capernaum, but Mark focuses on the issue of sin forgiven.

Here we have a picture of man's total inability to help himself, to raise himself up, we find him without personal strength to save himself, to cure his weakness, or his sickness.

God must move to save him or he will be crippled, impotent and broken forever, without strength, without hope.

Rom. 5:6, For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

These verses are absolutely exploding with action and drama. The scene is full of example and instruction for the sensitive eye.

We have 5 main peoples, each with lessons to teach.

We have the sensational seekers, the sarcastic, the sincere, the sorrowful and we have the Savior.

Read: Mk. 2:1-12.

Read the parallel passages;

Matt. 9:2-8,

VS. 2 "Son be of good Cheer."

Luke 5:17-26

VS. 17 The scribes and Pharisees have come from every town of Galilee, and Judea and Jerusalem as they were beginning to gang up on Him to trap and convict Jesus of breaking their law and blaspheming.

VS. 18 & 19 they seemed to try various ways to get the paralytic into the house to Jesus but were unable.

THE SENSATIONAL SEEKERS (VS. 1b -2)

We know that Capernaum must have been dear to Jesus for we find Jesus revisiting Capernaum and Matthew says in 4:13 that Jesus came to Capernaum and dwelt there and in 9:1 Matthew says speaking of Capernaum, Jesus came into His own city. It seemed to be His home town of the North.

VS. 1, It was heard, (noised) that He was in the house. I suspect they came rushing back to see the wonders that Jesus would do.

What spectacular miracle show would He put on this time. Oh what a shame when Christianity becomes a show, an entertainment.

But it was noised about that Jesus was in the house. Oh may it be noised about that Jesus is in our house, body and home?

These folks in Capernaum had the blessing of Jesus's presence, His healings, His teachings, His miracles, they crowded everywhere around Him to hear Him.

We are told they were at times filled with amazement, astonishment, wonder and even fear, yet in spite of these reactions they remained unconverted, uncommitted and there seemed to be little soul transformation among them.

And we are reminded again of the prophecy of Jesus to them in Matt. 11:23, 24; And you, Capernaum, who^[a] are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

THE SINCERE 4 FRIENDS (VS. 3-4)

Because they could not get into the house to bring their friend close to Jesus the persisted and found another way to Him.

The outside stairs and the roof construction.

Landing the paralytic at Jesus feet.

I wonder if it was Peters house and that was where Jesus dwelt? Or did Jesus have His own rented home???

Can you imagine Peter's reaction when he hears noise on his roof, then debris and dirt coming down on those in the room, and then seeing the light burst through his roof and into the room, a hole in his roof and a large one at that.

A PICTURE AND MOTIVATION OF PRAYER (VS. 4-5)

Jesus responds to their faith. He sees faith.

Jesus sees their faith! Whose faith, the friends for sure and perhaps the paralytic.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen, but Jesus sees our faith and answers accordingly.

A paralytic carried by 4 men. A great picture of a prayer meeting. Men and women committed to praying through regardless of obstacles.

Parents, here is a blessed hope for our spiritually paralyzed children, without strength in the Savior.

Can we will we believe for our children?

Let us pray and let Jesus see our faith! Let us carry them on our hearts and bring them to Jesus feet in believing prayer.

May our prayers be filled with faith; even a little faith is enough. May Jesus see our faith and speak into the lives and hearts of our children and loved ones. "Son/Child your sins are forgiven!"

We too may have to break through heaven's roof to lower them in, but be persistent and believing.

Mk. 11:22 have faith in God.

Mt. 21:21, 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. ²² And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Let God lead you to a bible verse of promise:

Isa. 54:13, All your children *shall be* taught by the LORD, And great *shall be* the peace of your children.

Isa. 49:25b; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.

Jer. 31:16, 17; ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD: "Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD, And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷ There is hope in your future, says the LORD, That *your* children shall come back to their own border.

Isa. 59:21, Jer. 32:29,