

MARK 2:1-12 THE PARALYTIC MADE WHOLE PART 2

INTRO:

- Here see again the heart of Jesus for humanity, Including both the paralytic and Pharisee.
- God must move to save him or he will remain crippled, impotent and broken forever, without strength, without hope.
- We have 5 main peoples, each with lessons to teach. We have the sensation seekers, the sincere, the sarcastic the sorrowful and we have the Savior. The first 2 we covered last week and an picture of prayer.

Read: Mk. 2:1-12.

THE SENSATIONAL SEEKERS (VS. 1b -2)

- VS. 1, it was heard, (noised) that He was in the house.
- Their closing comments are worth seeing again, these taken from the 3 gospels,
- Mt. They marveled and glorified God who had given such power to men.
- Mk. All were amazed, and glorified God saying we have never seen anything like this.
- And Luke. They were amazed and glorified God and were filled with fear saying, "we have seen strange things today. (strange, "contrary to received opinion," contrary to expectation, i.e. extraordinary.)
- And yet they were not moved to repentance.

THE SINCERE 4 FRIENDS (VS. 3-4)

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

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

- Jesus responds to their faith. He sees faith.
- Persistence and determination. Obstacles would not stop them.
- Here is a great picture of importunate, persistent prayer.
- Parents, here is a blessed hope for our spiritually paralyzed children, without strength in the Savior.
- 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.

THE SKEPTICAL SCRIBES AND PHARISEES (VS. 6-7)

- **The scribes** were the ones who drew up legal documents. They also copied the Old Testament Scripture. They devoted themselves to the study of the law, and the determination of its applications on daily life.
- **The Pharisees** formed the largest and most influential religious-political party in New Testament times. They are consistently depicted in the Gospels as antagonists or opponents of Jesus Christ and the early Christians. The name "Pharisee" seems to mean "separated one." The Pharisees separated themselves from society to study and teach the law, but they also separated themselves from the common people because they considered them religiously unclean.
- The Scribes and Pharisees had come from all over Israel for Luke in his account, tells us they had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem.
- They came spreading their negativity about Jesus, their suffocating outward religious death. Now trying to spread it in Capernaum, to put out the crowds zeal and catch Jesus in a heretical trap.
- They seemed to have arrived early or had been given front row seats.
- I wonder what Jesus was preaching and teaching on. What a sermon.
- Jesus discerns the skepticism of the scribes and Pharisees. He heard what their hearts were saying.
 - Vs. 6 "And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts," 7 "Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- We also see the compassion of God, even for them, for Luke also adds, "The power of Lord was present to heal them." But they proved to have the hearts of the Laodicean church of **Revelation 3:17, 18.** (1 Tim. 2:3 all kinds saved.)
- Did none of them have a need, a needy child or spouse or friend?
- They felt threatened and were filled with jealousy, envy and pride which gives birth to criticism and complaints. They were self-righteousness and would not, could not receive from Jesus.
- They never had the popularity Christ was now receiving, they did not have the power or authority He was possessing, No one hung on their words or crammed in close to hear and see their actions. They knew they did not have any power to lessen the misery of man.
- They were all about outward perfections, right and wrong but they were dead, whited sepulchers Mt.23:27.

THE SORROWING PARALYTIC (VS. 3, 4, 5, 11, 12)

The most distinctive benefit the Christian message offers the world is not sacrificial love for others, or a high standard of morality, or a life of peace and contentment, or a life of purpose and satisfaction.

All of these things Christianity does bring, but they are by-products of biblical Christianity, and yet all these fall short of Christianity's greatest gift to mankind... The gospel brings one surpassing benefit that transcends all the others and is provided by no other religion and it meets humanities deepest and fundamental need.

That is the reality that as sinners we all stand guilty before a holy God, a humanity that has by its sin and rebellion condemned itself to an eternal hell.

The difference between those who will enjoy eternal life and those who will experience everlasting punishment in hell is not a matter of personal goodness, as other religions teach, but is bound up in one word, "FORGIVENESS".

Every person's greatest need is forgiveness of sin.

Here Jesus addresses that which was paramount to this mans need.

He is a picture of the whole human race. No power to fix himself, to save itself, he lies in need of someone greater, and Jesus has come to save His people for their sins.

The greatest need this man had was not a physical healing, but spiritual, thus "son your sins are forgiven you." (Perhaps a young man in regret.)

By Matthews addition of the phrase "Son be of good cheer." (Mt. 9:2) Literally, No longer be sad but encouraged.

It would seem sin was the cause of his cheerlessness. Discouraged by the weight of sin and conviction, his outlook was one of sadness, burdensome and perhaps hopeless.

Jesus must have seen contrition, repentance, remorse and seeing that He would respond appropriately, "son your sins are forgiven you."

Would Jesus utter the words of soul cleansing to an un-seeking person? One who was not in bitterness for his sin and looking for forgiveness? NO!

We do not hear the man crying out for cleansing, but Jesus hears the heart and answers. Isa. 65:24; "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer;

And now perhaps he could agree with the Psalmist, "*It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*" Ps. 119:71

Jesus, when He forgave this man's sin, went directly to the heart of man's problem. Sin.. It is the cause of all of man's misery and suffering.

This word forgiven in VS. 5 has a double meaning.

1) First ones sins are put away on a judicial basis by the shed blood of Christ. He paid the penalty, a price the broken law of God demanded and thus satisfied divine justice.

2) On the basis of that, God removes the guilt of the sin from the believing sinner and bestows upon him a positive righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself, in which the forgiven person stands forever justified.

This is Biblical forgiveness. The literal meaning is to send away, to release.

This word deals even with the removal of the act itself as though it had not been done. The sin, the act of sin is sent away.

Forgiveness is the most sensational and greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs.

It meets the greatest need, it brings the greatest blessing it costs the greatest price, and it gives the most lasting results.

This man who could not walk now by the power of Christ rises takes up his bed and walks. Legs that had no strength, that had atrophied into sticks now immediately receive power and strength to enable the man to rise up and walk.

With God all things are possible. No obstacle can stand before Him.

THE SAVIOR

He preached the word to them, (2b)

VS. 7 the Pharisees correctly murmur, "who can forgive sins but God alone?" And correct they were.

- **Isa. 43:25, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.**

And like the rich young ruler who came calling Jesus "good Teacher".. and Jesus replying, "why do you call Me good, none is good but God alone?"

Vs. 9; Which is easier, the healing of the body or the healing of the soul. Both take the miracle power of God.

To say your sins are forgiven is easy to say as there is no outward evidence, it is all inward, so it is easy to say, compared to be healed as it is an outward work and the proof is there by the person being made whole which all can see.

But the healing of a soul is an inward work, it takes the eternal work of a Holy sacrificial Savior appeasing a Holy God. The life and blood of Christ, while the healing of the body takes only an act of the will of God.

VS. 10 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has ^[a]power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

POWER: Power here implies not only power and authority, but rightful power and authority. He owns power and authority, it is rightfully His.

SON OF MAN: Never spoken on any other's lips other than Stephen when was being martyred and seeing heaven opened.

It implies and speaks of His Messianic office, His true manhood and His unique relation to humanity. He is not "a" son of man but THE SON OF MAN! Jesus uses this title 80X and 14 of them in Mark.

CONCLUSION:

Listen, Jesus is for those who feel their need, those who feel their brokenness and are willing by the grace and power of God to live Christ like lives..

He is the way Maker:

Live for Jesus.