



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Week 6: Paralyzed by sin

In the previous passage we discovered that Jesus has the authority to make the unclean clean. This week we learn that Jesus has the authority to forgive sin and has the power to deal with its effects.

1. Jesus Sees Your Faith And It Is Not In Vain

- Read Mark 2:1-5, Hebrews 11:6, 2 Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:2

Jesus responded to those who diligently sought him.

- **Faith moves us in the right direction.** Faith that does not move us closer to Jesus is not real faith. He is the real reward for our faith.
- **Faith needs to be durational and durable.** They knew Jesus was the only answer and they went directly to him with expectation.
- **Faith needs appropriate desperation.** Faith looks to Jesus alone, regardless of whether the situation/difficulty resolves or not. Faith is the ability to say “not my will but your will be done”.

- ❖ Q: Why is it not real “faith” if it does not draw us closer to Jesus?
- ❖ Q: When we think of our own faith, do we think of Jesus as the reward, or do we think of what he will do for us as the real reward?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think that real faith is about trusting God for HIS will rather than trusting God for our will to be done?
- ❖ Q: Based on this study, how would you now define faith? Has your perspective changed at all? In what way?

2. Jesus Responds To Faith By Meeting Our Deepest Need And Not Our Obvious Needs

- Read Mark 2:5

Jesus forgave the paralyzed man’s sin before healing him because that was his greatest need. Many of us come to Jesus with all sorts of expectations from him, but we don’t really want him to deal with our deepest need: SIN. He longs to forgive the sin, rebellion and idolatry in our lives and to draw us closer to him so that we will be fully satisfied in him.

- ❖ Q: Why do we so often go to Jesus for everything else except to deal with our sin, rebellion and idolatry?
- ❖ Q: How often do we look at our own lives and realize that our sin is our greatest problem?
- ❖ Q: How do you react when a fellow believer calls you out on your sin? Are you grateful or are you angry with him/her? Explain.
- ❖ Q: Do you see your sin in the same destructive way that they do or do you consider your other problems to be far more significant?

3. Jesus Has The Power And Authority To Forgive Sin And Deal With Its Effect Because He Is God

- Read Mark 2:6-11

In saying that he could forgive the man’s sin, Jesus was claiming to be God, for only God has the authority to forgive sin. In healing the paralyzed man, Jesus demonstrated that he had the authority and power to do both. He has the ability to cleanse and restore every area of sin and brokenness in our lives, including our shame and pain.

- ❖ Q: Why do you think Jesus did not heal the man immediately? What point was he trying to make?
- ❖ Q: If you have come to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing from sin, have you come to him to heal the effects that sin has had on you?
- ❖ Q: Do you believe that he has the authority to bring wholeness and healing emotionally and physically?
- ❖ Q: In what area does your faith in Jesus need to grow?
- ❖ Q: Is there anything that God is calling you to do in response to this message about the forgiveness of sin and its effects on your life?

4. It's All For God's Glory

- Read Mark 2:12

The man responded with absolute faith and obedience by getting up and walking out, just as Jesus had instructed. He walked out forgiven and healed, and the response of the crowd was to glorify God. We should respond to our forgiveness and healing in the same way.

- ❖ Q: When you first received God's forgiveness from sin and crossed the line of faith, what changes did people notice in your life as a result? Did they know it was God's work in you that had caused the change?
- ❖ Q: How does that compare to what people see in you now? Is your obedience to Jesus something that people see in your life today?

