

Mark 2

Sunday, April 6, 2025 8:00 AM

THE POWER TO FORGIVE AND HEAL

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (**Mark 2:5-7**)

In the Gospel of Mark, the emphasis is on the deeds of Jesus more than on the words of Jesus. “The Gospel of Mark pictures Christ in action. There is a minimum of discourse and a maximum of deed.” (**Robertson**)

One of the keywords in the Gospel of Mark is the word immediately. This word occurs more than 40 times in Mark. We see Jesus as a servant — busy meeting needs and busy being God’s Messiah.

Jesus looked up at the four men struggling with the stretcher with a paralytic on it. Jesus looked at them and saw their faith. How could Jesus see their faith? Their bold, determined action to bring their friend to Jesus showed everyone they had genuine faith.

Can you imagine how the friends on the roof felt? They went to a lot of trouble to see their friend healed, and now the teacher only wants to forgive his sins! Maybe I would have shouted, “No, he’s paralyzed! We wanted him to walk, not to be forgiven!”

But Jesus knew what the man’s real need was and what his greatest need was. Jesus got right to the problem, all our problem. What good are two whole legs to walk right into hell with them? Whenever there is a problem, sin is almost always the real problem.

Jesus did not mean that the paralyzed man was exceedingly sinful or that his paralysis was directly caused by sin. No! He addressed man’s greatest need and the root of all pain and suffering — man’s sinful condition.

Finally, the scribes used the right kind of logic. They correctly believed that only God could forgive sins and even correctly examined this new teacher. Their error was in refusing to see who Jesus is, God the Son, who has the authority to forgive sins.

“Again and again during the life of Christ, the same dilemma was to re-appear. If

he were not divine, then he was indeed a blasphemer; there could be no third way out.” **(Guzik, Cole)**

Lord, thank you for coming to heal us from our sinful condition. That alone is enough to have hope and joy in You. When you do heal us physically, we are grateful, but glad that’s not the end.