

Bible Study #7

Mark 2:1-12

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A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and

walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Teaching Points:

1. Jesus can forgive sin because Jesus is God.
2. God honors the faith of those who assist in the salvation process.

Practical Applications:

1. Let's be creative and ingenious in bringing our friends to Christ.
2. Let's be willing to carry one corner of the bed.
3. Let's pick up our beds and walk.

Questions From The Text:

1. Why did the friends of the paralytic tear apart the roof? Wouldn't this damage the house?

This miracle took place in a home in First Century Capernaum. Houses were different in construction then, having an outside staircase leading to a flat roof. The roof would have been made of stone or clay tiles laid across the beams, then covered with sod for insulation. In other words, the roof was not damaged, but just taken apart for access to the room below.

2. What would the paralytic think when Jesus said, "Son, your sins are forgiven?"

The Jewish mind connected sin and sickness, so he likely had a sense of guilt.

3. Which is more important -- concern for the eternal condition of a man's soul, or the temporal condition of the body?

Jesus dealt with the sin question first.

4. How did Jesus claim His deity in this episode?

If only God could forgive sins, as the scribes had said, then He proved Himself God. He asked which was easier, to forgive sins or to heal (Mark 2:9). Both were impossible for man, but God could do either. The scribes could not refute the healing (Mark 2:11-12).

5. Was God glorified in the healing of the paralytic?

Yes. See Mark 2:12

6. How did the Lord test the faith of the healed man?

Jesus did not pick up the man's bed or carry it for him, but He told him to do it.

7. Compare the picture of the leper and the paralytic. What does each represent?

Leprosy is a picture of sin. Paralysis is a picture of the result of sin.

Further Discussion:

1. Think of some creative ways by which you could bring your friend(s) to Christ.
2. Try putting some of these into action.

Memorize:

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you...that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.'" (Mark 2:5, 10)