

Mark 2:1-12—The Healing of the Paralytic— The Authority of Jesus Brings Hope

I. Context

- a. Jesus home at Capernaum; after he left Nazareth, he made Capernaum his home (*Matt. 4:13*)
- b. Capernaum a fairly significant city on Sea of Galilee; had a Roman garrison, customs station, and administrative center; where Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, and Matthew

II. The Situation

- a. People came in large numbers to hear Jesus teach; home where he taught was packed out
- b. 4 men who wanted to bring paralytic couldn't get to Jesus because of crowd. They persisted by removing parts of the roof and lowering the man through ceiling (can you imagine this scene?!)

III. The Proclamation (Your sins are forgiven)

- a. Jesus deals first with the man's sins
 - i. Sin is the primary problem with humankind
 - ii. Because of our sin, we need someone with authority to forgive us and thus reconcile us to God; Jesus is that authority
 - iii. Forgiveness is at the core of the gospel—it can be a barrier to the prideful; but it is a lifesaver to the humble

IV. Who has authority?

- a. Why were the teachers of the law angry? Jesus' statement is a claim to divine authority; only God can forgive sins
- b. The physical healing is a response to show his authority
- c. The physical healing serves as a signpost of God's kingdom penetrating into this broken world

V. The Response—which would more characterize our heart?

- a. The religious leaders? Refused to acknowledge a miracle because of hard-heartedness
- b. The 4 men
 - i. Didn't fully understand everything but still acted in faith
 - ii. Showed enduring and sacrificial love toward this man.
 - iii. Showed compassion to someone vulnerable.
 - iv. Worked together

VI. So what?

- a. Do we recognize our true need for forgiveness?
- b. Who can we help bring to the feet of Christ? What obstacles might there be?
- c. How can we overcome barriers and obstacles?