

Mark

The Gospel of the **Servant of God**

I. The *Service* of the **Servant** (1:1-10:52)

A. His *Preparation* for **Ministry** (1:1-20)

B. His *Powerful* **Ministry** (1:21-2:12)

1. *Power* over **Unclean** or **Demonic Spirits** (1:21-28)

2. *Power* over **Disease** (1:29-34)

3. *Prayer* in the **Early Morning** (1:35-39)

4. *Power* over **Leprosy** (1:40-45)

5. *Power* over **Paralysis** (2:1-12)

² When **He (Jesus)** had come back to **Capernaum** several days afterward, it was **heard** that **He** was at **home**.

² And **many** were **gathered together**, so that there was **no longer room**, **not** even **near the door**; and **He** was **speaking the word** to them.

³ And they came, bringing to **Him** a **paralytic**, **carried** by **four men**.

⁴ Being **unable** to **get to Him** because of the **crowd**, they **removed** the **roof above Him**; and when they had **dug an opening**, they **let down** the **pallet** on which the **paralytic** was lying.

⁵ And **Jesus seeing their faith** said to the **paralytic**,
“**Son, your sins are forgiven.**”

⁶ But some of the **scribes** were sitting there and **reasoning** in their **hearts**,

⁷ “**Why** does **this man** speak **that way**? **He** is **blaspheming**;
who can forgive sins but **God alone**?”

⁸ **Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit** that they were **reasoning** that way **within themselves**, said to them,
“**Why** are you **reasoning** about these things in your **hearts**?”

⁹ Which is **easier**, to **say** to the **paralytic**,
'**Your sins are forgiven**'; or to **say**,
'**Get up**, and **pick up** your **pallet** and **walk**'?

¹⁰ But so that **you may know** that the **Son of Man** has **authority**
on earth to **forgive sins**"—He said to the **paralytic**,

¹¹ "**I say** to you, **get up**, **pick up** your **pallet** and **go home**."

¹² And he **got up** and *immediately* **picked up** the **pallet**
and **went out** in the **sight** of **everyone**,

so that they were **all amazed** and were **glorifying God**, saying,
"We have **never seen** anything like this."

Reflecting on the Healing of the Paralytic (2:1-12)

Summary Outline & Observations

A. The **Pressing Crowd** of People

When **He (Jesus)** had come back to **Capernaum**...
it was heard that **He was at home**.

And **many** were gathered together, so that there was **no longer room**,
not even near **the door**; and **He** was speaking **the word** to them. (2:1-2)

B. The **Persistent Faith** of the **four men**, and the **Faith** of the **paralyzed man**

Being **unable** to get to **Him (Jesus)** *because* of the **crowd**,
they **removed** the **roof** above **Him**; and when they had **dug an opening**,
they **let down** the **pallet** on which the **paralytic** was lying.

And **Jesus** **seeing their faith**...(2:4-5a)

C. The **Priority** of **Forgiveness** of **Sin** in the **process** of **Healing**

And **Jesus** **seeing their faith** said to the **paralytic**,
"**Son**, your **sins** are **forgiven**."(2:5)

D. The **Protest** of the **Scribes**

But some of the **scribes** were sitting there and **reasoning** in their **hearts**,

"**Why** does **this man** speak that way? **He is blaspheming**,
who can **forgive sins** but **God alone**?"(2:6-7)

E. The *Pointed Response* from the **Messiah**

Which is *easier*, to **say** to the **paralytic**,
'Your **sins** are **forgiven**'; or to **say**,
'**Get up**, and **pick up** your **pallet** and **walk**'? (2:9)

F. The *Powerful Healing*

But so that **you may know** that the **Son of Man** has **authority**
on earth to **forgive sins**"—He said to the **paralytic**,

"I say to you, **get up**, **pick up** your **pallet** and **go home**."

And he **got up** and *immediately* **picked up** the **pallet**
and **went out** in the sight of **everyone**...(2:10-12a)

G. The *Praise* and **Amazement** of the **People**

...**they** (the crowd) were all **amazed** and were **glorifying God**, saying,
"We have *never seen* anything like this."(2:12b)

Teaching Points—Mark 2:1-12

Point 1→ God responds to **faith**. As we read tonight, **He** also "sees" our **faith**,
and **takes note** of *those* who demonstrate *extraordinary faith in Him*, as they
face **severe** and seemingly **hopeless circumstances**. (2:5)

And **without faith** it is **impossible** to **please Him**,
for he who **comes to God** must **believe** that **He is**
and *that He* is a **rewarder** of those who **seek Him**. (Hebrews 11:6)

Point 2→ **Before healing** the paralytic *physically*, **Jesus**, having seen the **man's**
faith, declared to him that **his sins** were **forgiven** (2:5). **Jesus prioritized** the
need for *spiritual healing*; the need for **forgiveness**, and a **reconciled relationship**
with **God**, before **healing** the man *physically*.

Jesus taught concerning the **kingdom of God**, and **preached repentance** and **faith**
in the **gospel** (1:15). **His primary mission** on earth was to bring about "**redemption**
through **His blood**, the **forgiveness** of *our trespasses*..." (Ephesians 1:7)

"...just as the **Son of Man** did *not* come to **be served**, but to **serve**,
and to **give His life** a **ransom** for **many**." (Matthew 20:28)

Point 3→ Our teaching tonight is a **strong testimony** of the *divine Person* and
Authority of **Jesus**. When **Jesus** declared that the **paralyzed man** was **forgiven**
of **His sins**, **He** was **challenged** and **accused** by the **scribes**, for *only God* could
forgive sins (2:2:6-7).

Also, according to **Jewish beliefs** at this time, one could **not be healed** *unless* his **sins** were **forgiven**:

“But this other **Jewish idea** was even more **deeply rooted**,
had more of **underlying truth**, and would,
especially in the felt holiness of Jesus,
have a deep **influence** on the **soul**,
that **recovery** would **not** be granted to **the sick**
unless his **sins** had **first** been **forgiven him**.”
(The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, pg. 504)
(Alfred Edersheim)

So when **Jesus** *both* **forgave** this man, and then had the **power** to **heal him**,
it demonstrated both **His Divine Person** and **Authority**. **Mark** also declared
Jesus to be the **Jewish Messiah** when he gave **Him** the designation,
the “**Son of Man**.” (2:9-11)

Closing Comments