

Healing and Forgiveness Mark 2

It is risky to talk about the kingdom of God. His reign and authority over us expose our own weakness. He is not our cheerleader or taskmaster, but he reigns by forgiving. That truth is shocking because we don't like to think that we need forgiveness OR THAT CERTAIN OTHERS DESERVE IT.

There are different views when it comes to human nature.

EX: the Pope on March 19th express how "the heart is fundamentally good". SO, IF that's the case then why do we need the Roman Catholic church? Why does he have a job as the supposed representative of Christ on earth? If we're 'good', then we don't need a Christ / Messiah/Savior.

What we see in Mark 2 is that Jesus makes a bold scandalous claim. It was, to use the term I learned from my 8th grade math teacher, **BODACIOUS = remarkable, audacious, gutsy.**

We know it was bodacious based on the response of the people who were there.

REVIEW: We've seen Jesus start his ministry of preaching, healing, and casting our demons, and he has called some disciples to follow him. He is getting a lot of attention. Now we come to chapter 2...

1 When He 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."

The paralytic and friends find the Kingdom of God.

Jesus brings good news of his kingship. He has announced it in Nazareth Luke 4- Isa 61. The rumors of grace have reached the people and the friends of the paralytic. It was no small feat for them to get to Jesus, so they reached the roof and began to take it apart.

Have you ever seen something that was completely bodacious – shameless boldness?

EX: Whitney Houston final modulation on "I have Nothng" The music and vocals of Handel's Messiah.

The bodacious claim of Jesus is a response to the bodacious boldness of the paralytic and his friends.

The bodacious nature of FAITH

Jesus has returned to Capernaum and it was a crowded room so they went up to the roof and made a hole. They had a bodacious faith which led to a creative solution.

The friends are exercising their faith because they have heard about the miracles of Jesus, and they believe.

Get the picture: Jesus up front with scribes listening and the roof starts coming apart. Bodacious faith takes action, and it is met with bodacious grace.

Jesus 'saw' THEIR FAITH.

We don't usually think of faith as something you 'see', but something you have in your heart. But biblically faith is something that is evident.

EX: 'shield of faith' - it is something we take out to use in daily life. James 2:17 Faith without works is dead.

The Bodacious nature of GRACE

What might you expect to hear from Jesus in this moment?

"Be healed, rise up and walk."

Instead, he says, "Son your sins are forgiven." AWKWARD for the man and the crowd.

Jesus gave the man what he truly needed (forgiveness) with the result that he got what he wanted (healing).

Jesus speaks to him from a position of authority by using the term "son", not 'sir'. This is not a meeting of equals. Jesus is in a superior position of authority.

Grace is bodacious because it is offered to those who have nothing else to bring or give or barter. The paralytic, like all of us, is incapable of coming to Christ on his own.

It is Christ who has come to us. At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus from heaven, and now God is on the loose, i.e. Jesus is on the loose with bodacious grace.

Grace and forgiveness can't be earned; they can only be given by God alone, and that disturbs the scribes. "HE is blaspheming...only God can forgive sins."

They have spent their whole lives being good and trying to be righteous, and now Jesus speaks a word of forgiveness to a man who can't do anything good. In their minds he is probably paralyzed because of his sin.

This sort of audacious grace is scandalous; "it's not fair". TRUE.

Grace is scandalous. Forgiveness is scandalous. For Me, You, and "that person"

Forgiveness means that the offended party eats the debt. He/she pays the bill. THAT'S WHAT God DID FOR US. Our debt to God is far greater than any debt that anyone owes us.

Jesus can forgive because he is God, and he is the one who will pay the bill - 2 Cor 5.

It is possible that someone here has been in church for one week or 20 years and you've never known gospel joy and freedom because you're really trying to pay your own bill with God. Worship, service, giving, prayer, etc. are ways in which you are trying to pay spiritual rent to God with the hope that He'll treat you right.

You need to embrace the bodacious grace of God in Christ and stop trying to pay the bill. Jesus paid it all.

Grace also tells the person who thinks he/she doesn't deserve it that you CAN receive it as a free gift.

"If you knew what I've done" is no reason to run from God.

His grace can cover your sin. Will you receive it?

Jesus has Bodacious Authority

v. 8 -9 which is easier?

To say, "Your sins are forgiven" or "Get up and pick up your pallet and walk"?

To prove his AUTHORITY to forgive sins, he says to the paralytic, "Get up and pick up your pallet and walk."

Jesus gives the skeptics a choice. Which is easier? A or B?

In one sense "Your sins are forgiven is easier" because it can't be verified. Who would know?

"Get up and take your pallet and walk" is instantly verifiable. His credibility is on the line, and all will see the result of success or failure. That would be putting Himself to the test in a big way.

Jesus could have easily said, "Be healed, take your pallet and walk". He could not have said anything about 'forgiving sins.' Mark and the other gospel writers have already noted that Jesus has been healing and casting out demons without making a point of telling everyone that their sins are forgiven.

It is the statement, "Son, your sins are forgiven" that becomes the focal point of this whole interaction.

For some reason Jesus leads with that, and he must have known what the response would have been. In this setting, there is something else at play here.

In that context, in the presence of the scribes and the presence of His enemies, it would have been far easier for Jesus to say, "Get up and walk." Jesus knew that if He said, "Your sins are forgiven," the gauntlet would have been laid down, because He would be claiming to be divine, and that was not an easy thing to claim in that particular instance." (Sproul)

Someone in the crowd might be wondering, "Jesus, what are you thinking?" And Jesus tells us.

He speaks to the scribes and says, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"...

He then speaks to the paralytic, "Take up your pallet and walk."

Jesus is expressly seeking to highlight the real deeper need of this man (and all of us) – relief from guilt.

Note **that the authority that Jesus invokes is related to the title "Son of Man"**. This is not a political ploy to come off as the common man, one of the guys.

NO, this is a TITLE from the OT BOOK OF DANIEL that refers to a heavenly being. It is the Son of Man who is appointed by the Ancient of Days to be the Judge of the earth. It is the Son of Man to whom the Ancient of Days gives the kingdom forever. It is the Son of Man who descends from heaven and then ascends into heaven.

The Son of Man has the power / authority on earth to forgive sins. That is the focal point of what Jesus is doing.

The man has an obvious physical need, but his spiritual need is even greater. The healing of our spiritual need is the ultimate reason why Jesus came.

EX: Dr. Sproul shares a story of how years ago a psychiatrist who had a prosperous practice in South Florida seriously asked him to join his staff. He offered him a large salary to join his team. Sproul said: "I don't even have a degree in psychology. Why would you want me?" He said: "Because, R.C., 95 percent of my clients don't need a psychiatrist. They need a priest because their lives are destroyed by unresolved guilt."

Unresolved guilt and conflict are at the root of so many turbulent relationships – in marriage, at work, at church, in families, etc. Sometimes it is rooted in a presumed offense based on a wrong interpretation of an event that leads to vain imaginations and the imputing of negative motives. Often there is a real sinful offense that is not resolved, i.e. a lack of repentant faith. In many cases there needs to be mutual repentance and forgiveness. In some cases, it may be one sided and is unresolved.

Jesus knows that in terms of our relationship with God, the main issue is our need to experience the bodacious grace of forgiveness that comes through Christ alone.

Jesus speaks the words of healing and
v. 12 Immediately, the man gets up, takes his pallet and walks out of there. (mic drop).

The people were amazed and glorifying God, “We have never seen anything like this.”

The healing of the paralytic validated Jesus' authority to forgive sins.

The paralytic receives and leaves. No questions asked.

Luke 5 tells us that he went out glorifying God and that the people were filled with FEAR.

Ex: Fear of the unknown – “we've never seen anything like this before.”

Ps 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.

NOW, what do you do with him?

He makes the lame walk AND he FORGIVES SINS, i.e. HE IS God.

WHAT DO You do with Him? That is the question that always comes up when we encounter Jesus.

Don't leave here without knowing and receiving the grace of God in Christ. Everything may be going great in your life, but if you don't know the deeper reality of forgiveness, then nothing else matters.

If you know Christ this morning, then the word from God for you is, “Your sins are forgiven.”

--	--