

Bible Study
February 13, 2022
Mark 2:1-12

The buzz about His healing a leper was making it impossible for Jesus to go into the towns because of the press of the crowds. Mark's Gospel jumps immediately to Jesus' return to Capernaum. Jesus was teaching in a house, and the crowds gathered. The house was filled, and even the doorway was blocked by people eager to hear His Good News. Then, His teaching was interrupted by the four men who removed part of the roof so they could lower their friend to Jesus. Jesus did not complain. He saw their eager faith and was ready to respond to a new opportunity to help someone who looked to Him in his need.

1. Since it was obvious that the group wanted their invalid friend to be healed, why was Jesus' first reaction to say to him, "My son, your sins are forgiven?" Inherency analysis: built-in, root cause, fundamental. Inflation example. Romans 5:17-21; Matthew 1:21; Acts 5:31.
2. In verse 5, Jesus uses the word "child" (τέκνον) to address the paralytic.
 - a. What is all implied in calling someone your child? What is the importance of this address in our text? Romans 8:14; 1 John 3:1-2 (10).
 - b. Why would this same term be used in the ancient world for the relationship between teacher and student? Examples: Philemon 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2.
3. Which is easier: to forgive sins, or to bless a paralytic with immediate healing?
 - a. What is the question Jesus asks in verse 9?
 - b. What does verse 10 tell you about how Jesus expected the question to be answered?
 - c. Why would an expected answer of "yes" to Jesus' question challenge the categories and understanding of the scribes?

- d. How categories shape our understanding. Example: Woody Guthrie and *Deportees*.
 - e. Political and moral categories example.
 - f. Why can God alone forgive sins?
 - g. How do we know Jesus is God?
 - i. He's identified as such (divine names). Mark 1:11; Mark 1:24.
 - ii. Divine actions. Where do we see this in our text?
 - iii. Worshipped as God. Matthew 14:33; John 20:28.
4. The question required no answer other than Jesus' demonstration that He, the Son of Man, had authority to forgive sins by providing the paralytic with immediate healing. Jesus spoke three imperatives to the man (fill in the blanks): _____, _____, and _____. And Mark recorded the paralytic's immediate response to all three; he _____ and immediately _____, and _____.
5. The whole section in Mark aims at showing the growing conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. What does the fact that Jesus' critics had no response and evidently did not join the crowd in praise to God show?
6. At your table, discuss the reasons why you think disbelief persists in the hearts of people? (Try to be specific.)