

THE SON OF MAN'S AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SIN

--MARK 2:1-12--

INTRODUCTION:

As we come into the second chapter of Mark it begins with a message of forgiveness. In chapter one Mark emphasized the divine authority of Jesus Christ in several ways. Jesus preached with authority, we saw His authority and power over sin, Satan, and his demons. We saw His authority as He called men to follow Him, to give up everything and become His disciples. His miracles were authoritative as He showed His power over disease and demons. This morning as we enter chapter two, Mark clearly shows us Jesus Christ's authority to forgive sin. This truth lies at the heart of this passage. As we open up this historical event it centers on four different characters: the curious spectators, the paralyzed sinner, the compassionate Savior, and the proud scribes. The passage ends by returning to the curious crowd and their reaction at everything they had just witnessed.

I. THE CURIOUS SPECTATORS (Mark 2:1-2)

- a. Remember after Jesus healed the _____, word spread about Him to such an extent that He could no longer enter a town or city openly but had to stay in the unpopulated areas and the crowds were coming out to Him from everywhere.
- b. After the healing of the demon possessed man in the synagogue the last time Jesus was in Capernaum, the residents of the city had gathered at the house of Peter as Jesus _____ all the sick who were brought to Him.
- c. This crowd was mainly curious spectators, they had not come to hear Jesus' message, they had come to see His _____.
- d. Luke tells us that this crowd included a number of _____, these men functioned as guardians of Judaism.
- e. There were a few Pharisees that would come to believe in Jesus, most notably _____ and Joseph of Arimathea, but for the most part this group was opposed to Jesus.

II. THE PARALYZED SINNER (Mark 2:3-4)

- a. After describing this crowd of spectators, Mark moves to describe the coming of a _____ man on a stretcher carried by four men.
- b. Arriving at the house where Jesus was teaching these five were confronted by this _____ throng of people.
- c. Jewish homes were typically one story with a flat patio _____ accessible by an external staircase, so getting their friend to the roof was not an issue.
- d. The _____ was a good one, but it must have been terribly disruptive.

III. THE COMPASSIONATE SAVIOR (Mark 2:5)

- a. As this man was lowered by his friends in front of Jesus and the stunned people, the reason for this large _____ in Peter's ceiling became obvious—the man had been brought to Jesus to be healed.
- b. Sinners, sinful mankind has no greater _____ than forgiveness. (Matthew 1:21)
- c. Mark wrote that Jesus' response to this man was due to seeing their _____, not just the faith of this man, but the faith of his friends also.
- d. Recognizing this man's faith and desire for salvation, Jesus compassionately and authoritatively _____ him of his sin. (Psalm 103:12)

IV. THE PROUD SCRIBES (Mark 2:6-11)

- a. Jesus' declaration of forgiveness was just the thing those proud scribes were looking for to _____ Jesus and discredit Him.
- b. Because of this declaration of forgiveness, Jesus was claiming a level of _____ that belongs only to God.
- c. Jesus responded to their accusation of _____ by demonstrating His deity in three important ways.

- d. First, He read their minds, Mark writes that immediately Jesus was _____ in His spirit that the scribes sitting there were reasoning this in their minds.
- e. Second, Jesus did not _____ or argue against their basic theological premise, that only God can forgive sins.
- f. Third, He backed up His claim to be _____ by demonstrating His supernatural power.
- g. Jesus intentionally did not _____ the paralyzed man until after He declared His authority to forgive sins.
- h. With compassion Jesus again turns His attention to the paralyzed man on the floor in front of Him, and says, “*I say to you, _____ up, pick up your pallet and go home.*” (Mark 2:11, NASB95)

V. THE SPECTATORS’ REACTION (Mark 2:12)

- a. When Jesus told the paralyzed man to get up and to pick up his pallet and go home, He was putting His claim of divine authority and equality with God to the _____.
- b. The crowd who _____ what had taken place responded with surprise and astonishment, unlike the scribes and Pharisees who continued to reject Jesus in spite of the undeniable signs that He performed.
- c. Remember that most of this crowd were just thrill _____, and this response was a further demonstration of their superficial faith. (Matthew 9:8)

CONCLUSION:

The miracles of Jesus were signs validating His claim that He possessed divine authority to forgive sinners. The Lord Jesus Christ not only had the power to forgive sinners, but He is the One who made forgiveness possible as He became the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. The words that Jesus spoke to that paralyzed man more than 2000 years ago are the same words He speaks today to all who come to Him in repentance and faith. He says, “your sins are forgiven.” Christianity offers this world what no other religion can offer, the forgiveness of sins.