



THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



Sermon Series Notes

“Man’s Greatest Need” (Mark 2:1-12)

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vv.1-2 Teaching & preaching the Word was Jesus’ custom. And his main topic as he taught the Word was man’s need to repent and be saved.

vv.3-4 Have you ever wondered who’s house this was? I mean, not only is it packed with people, but now 4 guys are tearing off a portion of the roof! The roofs in these days were not like the ones we have in America today, thus making it much easier to create a hole in which to lower this paralytic into the room where Jesus is teaching. Nevertheless, this was a big deal, and would have caused everyone’s attention to be drawn to the section of roof these guys are demolishing!

See Luke 5:17-18; The power of the Lord is present to heal, and no doubt that is the motive for these four men breaking through the roof and letting this man down to where Jesus is. Read Luke 5:19; I don’t know if these guys just got lucky, or if they were really that good at calculating which part of the roof to break open to let this guy down. Either way, he is lowered down “right in front of Jesus.” There is certainly no doubt that every eye in the place is fixed upon this paralyzed man, and Jesus. He has healed so many, and the power of the Lord is here now to heal *this* man, but no one is ready for what comes out of Jesus’ mouth.

v.5a What a fascinating statement – “When Jesus saw *their* faith.” Did you know that your faith can aid others? Our faith should motivate us to get people to Jesus.

v.5b I have to wonder if there was not an initial disappointment in response to Jesus’ words here. I have to believe the faith they had in Jesus was in anticipation of this man’s physical healing. They expected this paralytic to leave the room under his own power. But at this moment, that expectation is not met.

What a messed up perspective we naturally have. We tend to want Jesus to fix our temporal problems, even though eternal issues are much more important. What is your most natural need you’d like Jesus to heal? If he heals our physical body, what about the needs of our soul? Jesus said, “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?” If he heals our marriage, our family, etc.

Mark 9:45 It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

Mark 8:36 What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and yet loses his soul?

vv.6-7 Great point.

vv.8-9 If you say “Your sins are forgiven,” what proves what you said to be true? But if you say, “Arise, take up your mat and walk,” if the person does so, their healing is the proof of your authority.

vv.10-12 Wouldn’t you have loved to be there?

LESSONS

The unwillingness of these teachers of the law to acknowledge the obvious truth.

None are so blind as those who will not see.

Some people, no matter the evidence you present, refuse to acknowledge the truth. What is the obvious truth here?

Jesus is GOD.

Jesus knew what they were thinking. Wouldn't that give you a clue that the person you are dealing with is not the average human being? And this is not the only time he knew other people's thoughts. Luke 6:8...Jesus knew what they were thinking (anticipating that Jesus would heal a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath); Luke 9:47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts (the disciples arguing over who is the greatest); Luke 11:17 Jesus knew their thoughts (when they accused him of driving out demons by Beelzebub). They are right in that no one can forgive sins but God. What they needed to come to terms with is that Jesus is God. Promo booklet "Jesus is God."

"Son of Man" is a Messianic title (Daniel 7:13-14).

Matthew 26:64-65 In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven (Daniel 7). Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy!"

John 5:18...not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. See John 8:56-59; 10:27-33.

Jesus has authority to forgive sins.

It is only through him that anyone can be forgiven.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

I Tim.2:5-6 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men...

Forgiveness is man's greatest need.

This does not at all mean that God does not care about our physical needs. Redemption is not limited to the soul. Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is sufficient to one day make us new body, soul, and spirit. And Jesus clearly showed compassion time and time again on those who had very real and painful physical needs. He of course healed this paralytic, but not until he healed his greater infirmity.

Have you ever thought what it is going to be like for people who have not been forgiven by God of their sins? The Bible says there is hell to pay for our sins, and that hell is actually hotter for some than for others. Revelation tells us that the ultimate punishment for those who have not been forgiven is a place called the "lake of fire." We live in a day when many people no longer believe in hell or eternal judgment. Yet people still know something is wrong.

I recently heard Tim Keller mention a book titled "The Trial," by Franz Kafka, written between 1914-15 and published in 1925; On his thirtieth birthday, the chief cashier of a bank, Josef K., is unexpectedly arrested by two unidentified agents from an unspecified agency for an unspecified crime. The story takes one crazy twist after another before it ends abruptly and in a rather bizarre manner. On the eve of K.'s thirty-first birthday, two men arrive at his apartment. He has been waiting for them, and he offers little resistance – indeed the two men take direction from K. as they walk through town. K. leads them to a quarry where the two men place K's head on a discarded block. One of the men produces a double-edged butcher knife, and as the two men pass it back and forth between them, the narrator tells us that "K. knew then precisely, that it would have been his duty to take the knife...and thrust it into himself." He does not take the knife. One of the men holds his shoulder and pulls him up and the other man stabs him in the heart and twists the knife twice. K.'s last words are: "Like a dog!".

One of many quotes by Franz Kafka helps to understand the meaning behind "The Trial."

"The state in which we find ourselves today is sinful independent of guilt."

People have a sense of condemnation no what they believe. Hell is real, as is eternal judgment. But even if you do not believe in these things, you know something is not right.

Why are there broken homes, broken hearts, & broken dreams. Why has no one, despite their riches, fame, or worldly success, ever found utopia in this life? Because we are broken. And Jesus came to deal with our broken humanity.

Isa.61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor...bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners...

John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.

One thing I'd like for us to note: When God forgives, it's not like He says, "It's ok, no problem, forget about it." No, sin must be judged.

Romans 2:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood, He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he has left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

God longs to forgive us.

Have you noticed that Jesus forgave people who did not specifically ask to be forgiven. This paralytic never verbally asked for Jesus to forgive him. But as we have already seen, Jesus knows our thoughts, so he obviously knows this man's longing to be forgiven, to have peace with God. The thief on the cross never specifically asked for forgiveness, yet Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with me in paradise." The woman caught in adultery never asked for forgiveness, yet Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you, go and leave your life of sin." The sinful woman at the home of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7) never asked for forgiveness, yet Jesus said to her, "Woman your sins are forgiven...your faith has saved you, go in peace." Which causes me to think of some I have met in the church over the years who have a legalistic view of preaching repentance. Had this paralytic repented? Obviously Jesus knows his heart, just as he did the people I just mentioned. Add to those examples Zaccheus, as well as the Philippian jailor, and the biblical case against those who legalistically teach that we must preach repentance before people can be saved is pretty solid.

Matthew 23:37 Jesus over Jerusalem, How I have longed to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks...

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, let us reason together...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Sin is the blood colored stain on our souls, and Jesus is the only one who can get the stain out.

Ezekiel 33:11 As surely as I live...I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

When God speaks, it is done.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Gen.1:6, 9,11, 14, 20, 24; These are all verses that describe God creating the world.

See John 1:1-3, 14

So when God says you are forgiven, it is done! I have over the years seen some people who have asked the Lord to forgive them, received Christ as Lord and Savior, then later pray for Him to forgive them all over again. I have seen some people do this many times. There is actually a segment of the Christian church that believes you can lose your salvation multiple times, and so they need to be born again multiple times. But the truth is you can only be born again once. And if you have been born again, you are forgiven.

Col.2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

II Cor.5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 10:17...Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more (from Jer.31:34).

Hebrews 10:18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Under the Old Covenant, the Israelites were making daily, regular, repeated sacrifices to atone for their sins. And not only did they have to keep on making these sacrifices, but no matter how many they offered, and no matter how much they did so exactly as the Law prescribed, they never really felt forgiven. See Hebrews 10:1-14.

Hebrews 9:9...the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. Salvation/forgiveness is by faith, from first to last.

Galatians 1:6-9; 2:11-16; 3:10-14; 5:2-4; Romans 3:21-28; 4:1-17; Eph.2:8

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith *from first to last*...

CONCLUSION

What some people need to deal with is whether or not they have truly been born again. How do I know?

The witness of the Holy Spirit; Rom.8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

A I John confirmation (I John 5:13); Bottom line is I John 3:9-10.

For some of us, we need a bath. We need to repent and be saved. Is that you?

For those of us who have truly been born again, we have I John 1:9; Sometimes we need to confess sin to restore fellowship with the Lord; Sometimes as we walk in this world we get our feet dirty, and we need to let Jesus wash our feet. But we do not need a whole bath again. Remember what Jesus said, "He who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet."