

Why Does Jesus Forgive Sins?

Mark 2:1-12

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I. Back to Capernaum. Mark 2:1-2

1. Exalt God by doing ministry according to His _____.
2. Edify believers by teaching and shepherding them with the whole _____ of God in love; so that they can live and minister in the likeness of Christ.
3. _____ the lost by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ both privately, publicly, and in the whole world.

It is the Word of God and the Spirit of God that have the living, active power we need in order to be _____.

II. Lower the mat. Mark 2:3-4

The men climb to the roof, make a hole in it and lower their friend down to Jesus. These men _____ that Jesus could heal their friend and they wouldn't stop until Jesus did just that.

- The men were probably thinking the paralytic needed to be healed more than he needs to be forgiven; but Jesus _____ what we need to be healed from; both on the inside and out.

III. Illness caused by sin. Mark 2:5-11

Biblical faith in Christ does not just believe that Jesus exists; belief is an action word. If you have true faith and trust in Jesus, you can't help but to _____ upon that faith.

- The religious leaders were not interested in the _____ of these men bringing their friend to Jesus. The Scribes were concerned with rule keeping; not with the healing of this man.

Jesus has the _____ and power to heal people and to forgive sins; so He tells the man to get up and pick up his bed and walk.

IV. The Lord receives the Glory! Mark 2:12

"On their own stated beliefs the man could not be cured, unless he was _____. He was cured, therefore he was forgiven. Therefore Jesus' claim to forgive sin must be true." (Barclay)

V. Conclusion.

"Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest _____ and the most lasting results." (Wiersbe)

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. *What did the crowds do once they heard Jesus had returned to Capernaum? What do you think they were seeking?*
Psalm 136:3-4, Exodus 4:1-9, John 4:48, John 20:30-31, Matthew 12:38-39
2. Read **Ephesians 4:11-16** and discuss the three goals of the local church that are in point I. of the sermon note sheet.
1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. Read **Mark 2:3-4**. *How did the four friends in this story show real faith? What would have happened if Jesus had not healed the paralyzed man?*
4. Read **Hebrews 11:1-6**. Discuss some ways of exercising and growing in Biblical faith.
Romans 10:17, Acts 14:8-10, Eph. 2:8, Proverbs 3:5-7, 2 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 6:1, Luke 17:5, James 2:18
5. Read **Mark 2:5-11**. Describe the three ways Jesus showed He was God in the flesh through these verses.
Mark 1:23, Matthew 1:20-21, John 1:1, Isaiah 9:6, John 10:30, Colossians 2:9-10, John 8:24
6. According to *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, what is the chief end of man?
7. Discuss the conclusion of this sermon.
Ephesians 2:10