

The Paralytic - Mark 2:1-12 Transcendent Series

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house.

2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?" 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

The first line of our text gives us the setting of the Passage – Back in Capernaum.

A)Capernaum was a small costal town on the shores of the sea of Galilee – really a small Lake.

B)Capernaum was Jesus home base when he was in the region of Galilee

1)Peter's house was there.

C)In fact in chapter 1 – Jesus healed Peter's mother in Law – word got out – this was the result 1:32

32 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many

demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

After that night of ministry and healings – Jesus the next day went on to the next towns – preaching teaching

A)Not sure exactly how long he was gone – but now he is back

B)Quote: Hope again washed ashore this little lakeside village of Capernaum...because Jesus was "in the house"!

C)Jesus is in a house -teaching – Packed with People – and some of the religious leaders are there too

The Interruption

A)Suddenly there is this commotion going on above them – coming from the roof.

B)Four friends determined to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus

1)Four friends who were compelled to go through ANY lengths possible to get their friend to Jesus.

C)They come to the house – carrying their friend on a stretcher – but the house is packed – they can't get in – can't get close.

In those days many of the houses had an outside stairway that led to a roof top patio –

A)The typical roof was constructed of timbers laid parallel to each other about two or three feet apart.

B)Then crosswise over the timbers, sticks were laid close to each other, thus forming the basic roof.

1)Upon this was laid reeds, branches of trees, and thistles.

C)The whole thing was overlaid with about a foot of earth, which was then packed down to resist water/ strong enough to walk on.

1)All told, the roof was about two feet thick.

So imagine this: In the middle of his Bible study – suddenly hear a ponding - - debris starts falling on people in the house/Jesus

A)The people start moving aside. – then there is a hole – sunlight

Pretty soon – the hole is big enough – 4 faces

B)V.4 of our text tells us that they lowered the hole bed down –

1)So the hole had to be at least 3 ft wide and 6ft long

Imagine that

C)What these men did was difficult and totally unorthodox – but that didn't matter!

1)they didn't care! We are going to get our friend to Jesus no matter what

What they did was costly

A)I mean someone was going to have to pay to repair the roof –

B)We will worry about that Later. their friend needed to meet Jesus

1)They broke through the roof and lowered him down in front of Jesus

C)You have got to admire the four friends of the paralyzed man

1)Jesus did

Jesus looks up – V.5 Seeing their faith

A)Jesus is not offended by the roof removers, however, but encouraged.

Picture him smiling – THUMBS UP

B)JESUS saw 4 sweaty men willing to put a shoulder to their faith!

1) Jesus saw a faith Jesus saw persistent, creative, & sacrificial faith!

C) Faith does the unexpected. Faith is unconventional.

D)What's more important a roof or a man?
PC – CARPET

1)And that kind of Faith gets God's attention

Jesus is always blessed by that type of faith – CENTURION

A)His servant – you don't need to come – just speak

B)the woman w/ the issue of Blood - just touch the hem

C) Blind Bart. Who when the crowd told him to be quiet –

1) he yelled even louder Jesus son of David me

D)Jesus likes that kind of Faith - Dedicated - determined –

1)not afraid to go the extra mile to do the unorthodox - to do the extravagant

E)Jesus looked up at the four men – saw their faith

Jesus looks down

A)He says to the Paralyzed man - **V.5b Son your sins are forgiven**

B)His four friends are probably thinking – that is nice Jesus but that is not why we went through all **this trouble ... his sins are forgiven**

C)But I believe to this paralyzed man – that was music to his ears

The Jew people tended to connect sin and suffering.

A)They believed that if a man was suffering he must have sinned.

B)That is the exact argument that Job's friends brought to him when he was faced with all his tragedy.

1)Job – confess you must have done something to cause all of this.

C)Now that is sort of a warped perception of God – God ruins people's lives when they sin against him. –

1)Not what we see in the Garden – God comes to Adam and Eve – seeking to help them and restore them

However – there are always consequences to sin

A)Sex outside of marriage – can lead to an STD – lying breaks trust – cause tension in a relationship

B)Most Bible scholars believe this man's paralysis had something to do with a sin he committed –

1)**which is why Jesus addressed him in that way.**

C)Jesus is always interested in the our greatest need above any other need that we have.

1) This man's greatest need was that his sins would be forgiven – yrs of being plagued by guilt.

D) Mathematics of sin

Sin adds to sorrow / subtracts Joy / multiplies problems / divides our heart

E) That is why his need to be forgiven was even greater than his need to be able to walk!

Jesus looks up – Sees the faith of the four friends

Jesus looks down – Says to the paralyzed man – Sins are forgiven

Jesus looks around V.6

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

A) Now note this: Their reasoning was right – the only person who could forgive sins was God.

B) What right did this itinerant and formerly untrained rabbi – have to utter such words – this is blasphemy

C) But Jesus always knew what they were thinking – Note this –

1) he is not mad at these guys – he doesn't rebuke them

D) He addresses their concern head on –

1) and he is going to make a very clear statement to them – as to who he is. – God in human flesh

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?”

Interesting question – Jesus asked them: Which is easier....

A) At first glance we would say – it was easier to say Son your sins are forgiven – but in reality that is not true

B) Here is why? To heal all Jesus had to do was speak to the man.

C) But To forgive Sins - He had to die on the cross
1) He couldn't just speak it away

God is holy and Just – Sin of humanity had to be paid for it couldn't just be ignored.

A) A price has to be paid – punishment rendered

Aa) Even a pardoned criminal knows he is guilty

B) God would arrange a way for sin to be completely eradicated – removed

1) Jesus would pay the price – take our sin – give us his righteousness

C) So it was harder to say – Son your sins are forgiven –

1) Jesus was pointing to what he would ultimately do for this man - And all of us.

D) Adds a Caveat - 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”— He said to the paralytic, 11 “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 12 Immediately he arose

Seeing ourselves in the story

A) We are all like the man: - Paralyzed by our sin that leads to guilt

B) Paralysis pictures the helplessness of the sinner.

1) Last time we saw how sin was like Leprosy in that it starts small but eventually spreads until the entire body is infected

C) Like Leprosy sin - causes a person's life to begin to decay & to Rot -

Here we see another picture of what sin does.

A) It cripples - leaves people paralyzed.

B) I suggest to you that there are people here today who are not walking –

1) not functioning in life like you should because of the guilt of sin

C) A certain sin or a series of sins that took place in their lives

D) And Although they can physically walk - they cannot walk w/ the Lord because they think –

1) I've gone too far I've sinned too greatly

E) And like this man - they are left paralyzed by their guilt – Paralyzed by condemnation

Know This: As immediately as this man arose and was healed of his physical paralysis –

A) you can be healed today of your spiritual paralysis

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* NKJV

Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*

B) In the same way that this man walked out of that room – a new person. Completely healed

1) You can walk out of this room a new person – completely set free –

C) Many of us in this room – have experienced that – freeing from Jesus

D) But some of you haven't - If that is your need –

1) I am going to in just a few minutes give you an opportunity to respond

E) So some of you here today have paralyzed by your own sin

But I also believe there are some here who have been paralyzed by the sins of others –

A) Someone has hurt you - Someone broke your trust – someone took advantage of you

B) You have been paralyzed by fear – trust issues –

C) You have been crippled by bitterness – unforgiving spirit

D) Rendered you unable to love – unable to trust others – and somewhat unable to trust God

Jesus wants you to know that God didn't have anything to do with how you were hurt.

A) We live in a fallen world – people are rebelling against God –

B) When that was done to you – it broke God's heart – but now He wants to help you rise above that

1) Not defined by that

C) Process that starts by trusting your heart to Jesus

1) Give you an opportunity to do that today as well.

Seeing ourselves in the story! – We are like the man

A) We can be like his four friends

B) They were willing to do anything to get their friends to Jesus – they believed that Jesus was the only answer for their friends

C) Question Church – Do you have loved ones who need to get to Jesus

D) Family members, friends, co-workers – crippled by life – sin is affecting their life?

1) Do we believe Christ is the only way? He is the only answer for them?

We need to get them to Jesus! How?

A) Prayer – need to daily pray for them.

Matthew 18:19 *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*

B) Get creative – maybe even attempt the unorthodox

C) **Ed Taylor's church** – *“We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don't know Jesus.”*

D) Are we willing to pay the cost? Raise some roofs to get people to Jesus?

1) Are we willing to invest the time? Do whatever it takes to get people we know to Jesus

What are some practical ways we can follow their example?

A) Do you know anyone that is bed ridden? Anyone in a convalescent home?

B) Anyone in the hospital? Anyone lonely?

C) Take them communion! Bring them Worship! Take them Prayer!

1) Take them a Daily Bread devotional!

D)Go out & find someone to minister to. “But people are too busy!” Then go do Prison or hospital visitation; or to a Convalescent home.

E)Just go to where people are! Find a need & meet it.

So we are all like the man – Paralyzed by sin

A)We can be like his four friends – if we are willing

B)Or we can be like the scribes and the Pharisees – always questioning

1)Like I said – their reasoning wasn’t wrong – but even after this man was healed/ they continued to resist Jesus

C)One commentator – these guys were the real ones who were paralyzed

1)Stuck in their religion and their traditions –

D)unwilling to see the work of God – that was right among them – in Jesus

We can get stuck in a similar way:

A)Stuck in our traditions our preconceived ideas –

B)Fail to see what God is doing – how he is working – how he might even want to use us

1)Lets be like the four friends not these guys! - Amen

As we close today: You here today – You know you have paralyzed by your sin

A)When I said that a few minutes ago – You sensed in your heart that is me

B)You heart is plagued by condemnation and guilt – Listen Jesus loves you

1)He didn’t come to condemn – He came to save, to forgive, to set free

C)He can do that in your life today

1)Never responded – never put your faith in Jesus

D)Or maybe you have professed Christ at one time in your life – but then you rebelled

1)Living for self – living in sin – rebellion – guilt – condemnation –

E)Feeling like God is done with you: LIE – NOT TRUE

1)People have been praying for you – Jesus sees their faith

You respond to Jesus today – Right now

Others crippled – sin that has been done to you!

A)Hurt you –

B)Pray for you today – Raise your hand – Jesus sees your faith