

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 6

Mark 2:1-12 ESV

Can Jesus Really Forgive and Heal?

Sunday, March 8 at 8:00 & 10:45

Third Sunday in Lent – 2015

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is part 6 of our series: **God's Life-Changing Truth**. Today's question: Can Jesus really forgive and heal? The basis for today's sermon is Mark 2:1-12.

As recorded in Mark chapter 1, Jesus had been in Capernaum *on the north coast of the Sea of Galilee*. While He was there He drove out many evil spirits and healed many who were sick – *including Peter's mother-in-law*. Then Jesus said: *"Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also..."* (Mark 1:38 ESV) So Jesus and His disciples went to other nearby towns. Now we pickup in chapter 2:

1. **The Setting:** ¹ **And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home** [*probably at Peter's home where he stayed when in Capernaum*]. ² **And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.** // So, after much casting out and healing, Jesus became very popular; therefore, when He returned, so many came to hear Him *"that there was no more room, not even at the door."* Also, after all the miracles, the people were excited to hear Jesus' preach *"the word to them."*

2. **Desperate Need Resulted in Desperate Action:** ³ **And they came, bringing to him [Jesus] a paralytic carried by four men.** ⁴ **And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.** // So four men had a paralyzed friend; ⇨ they desperately wanted him to be healed and ⇨ they believed Jesus could do it. Therefore, *when they could not get into the house through the door, they did NOT give up but improvised!* Think about the difficulty of *getting on the roof with their paralyzed friend*; then *removing a portion of the roof, yet they did it!*
3. **First Things First:** ⁵ **And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."**
 - a. So how did Jesus see their faith? *He knows all things!* But how could we see their faith? *By their deeds!* Think about Hebrews 11: BY FAITH Abel offered..., BY FAITH Noah built..., BY FAITH Abraham went..., BY FAITH Moses refused... Martin Luther described faith as a living, busy, active, mighty thing!
 - b. Why did Jesus forgive the man? Because that was the man's greatest need – *whether he knew it or not!* Jesus is **perfect** at setting priorities; we are oftentimes tempted to put *temporal things before eternal things* – so let us repent!
4. **Jesus – He Knew and He Can:** ⁶ **Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,** ⁷ **"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**

// Jesus knew what they were questioning in their hearts before they said a word; He knows the same about all of us – *what we are thinking and why!* Jesus, *knowing every heart*, helps us to know that **He is God in human flesh** – *so He is able to forgive all sins!*

5. **Which Is Easier:** ⁸ **And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk?’”** // To speak either statement is easy, *but the Almighty God Himself must be included* for either statement to come true!

- a. **“Your sins are forgiven...”** – Anybody can say the words, *but there is no way to prove they are true!* When you hear me say: **“...in the stead [thus in the place of] and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins...”** that blessed reality is received by faith – *not by sight or feeling or experience*. So those who questioned what Jesus said had no faith in †who He is and †what He could do.
- b. **“Rise, take up your bed and walk”** – Since faith is *believing in something we cannot see* (Heb. 11), those words require *no faith*, only sight! But, again, no one can make those words come true *apart from God!*

6. **Jesus Can Forgive and Heal:** ¹⁰ **“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” --he said to the paralytic-- ¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he**

rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” // So the unbelievers questioned Jesus’ ability to forgive – *because they had no faith*. So Jesus proved *His ability to forgive* by healing the paralyzed man right before their eyes!

- a. Imagine the commotion in the house as the roof was being removed above Jesus head and the man was being lowered down – inch by inch. Many probably knew the man as the local paralytic; his situation had been *long term* and *hopeless*. What is the hopeless situation in your life? **Remember: There is always hope through Jesus!**
- b. Then when the man *immediately responded to Jesus command* to **“rise, pick up..., and go...,”** *they were all amazed and glorified God!* But note this important reality: The miracle of physical healing did not save anyone nor could it save anyone. Instead, **God saves through His Word!** So †who God is and †what He is able to do – *to save and condemn* – should peak our interest in †hearing, †learning, †believing, and †benefitting from His Word.

Conclusion: Yes, Jesus really can forgive and heal! So let us always be glad to receive His blessings!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**