

January 17, 2021

“Called in Authority”
Lesson 3 of Unit

Mark 2:1-12

Intro

Ever wanted to go someplace where everyone else was also going? If you get there early enough, it’s OK, but if you’re late, you can end up waiting for a long time.

The popularity of the house in Mark 2 is like that. Everyone tries to go there—it’s “standing room only”! Part of the reason for that is the man Jesus healed of leprosy in Mark 1:40-45. After healing him, Jesus tells the man to say nothing, but instead he tells everyone about what happened. “As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly.” He is known to heal people, and He is approached by people coming from everywhere to either see Him or be healed by him, or in the case of today’s passage, have someone else be healed by Jesus.

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. vs. 1: Why has Jesus come to Capernaum? See Matt. 4:13 as well.

2. vs. 2: What are the indications that the people wanted to see / hear Jesus?

3. vs. 3: How many men were coming to Jesus with the paralyzed man? What does this action tell us about these men?

4. vs. 4: What problem do these men encounter, and what is their solution? What does this solution tell us about their level of concern for their friend and/or their belief in Jesus? What might the people in the house be thinking?

5. vs. 5: Whose faith does Jesus see in this verse? What does Jesus say to the paralytic? What might the people (and we) have expected Jesus to say?

6. vs. 6-7: In this culture, a teacher usually sits when teaching. What does the fact that the teachers of the law were sitting tell us about how they are approaching Jesus? What is their response to Jesus forgiving the paralyzed man's sins?
7. vs. 8-9: What does the fact that "Jesus knew in His spirit" what the teachers were thinking tell us about Him? Which *is* easier: to heal someone or to forgive their sins? What does this tell the teachers (and us) about Jesus?
8. vs.10-11: What's the difference between having the power to do something and having the authority to do something? For what reason(s) does Jesus heal the man he has just forgiven of his sins?
9. vs. 12: How is the man getting up and walking out also a proof that his sins were forgiven? How does seeing a miracle performed before them affect all the people (including the teachers)?

Application: This passage has at least two important connections for believers. First, complete healing must have spiritual healing to make a person whole. And only God, in the person of Jesus Christ, can give us that spiritual healing through the forgiveness of our sins.

Second, this miracle couldn't have taken place without the help of the paralyzed man's friends. Likewise, we need fellow believers to help us in the challenges of living our daily lives, and especially to deal with the spiritual challenges of this life.

Our text suggests a way to apply this passage to our own lives. It suggests writing out a prayer about the various needs in our lives—physical, spiritual, emotional, relational, and material—and any questions we want to ask God about those needs. In praying about them, ask to be made whole in each area so that you can better serve and glorify God.

Prayer: Father God, we know that You have the power and authority to both forgive our sins and to heal our bodies. We want to present to You each aspect of our being, and to ask you to make us whole in each one, so that we can love you and serve You as completely as possible. In Jesus' name, Amen.