



Lesson Title: Jesus Forgave Sins

Scripture Focus: Mark 2:5-7

The Lesson in Context

Although this narrative is not far into the Gospel of Mark, it marks (no pun intended) a key turning point in the story of Jesus. It is the climax of an early subplot. Crowds had been quick to follow Jesus, the miracle worker. They were not sure exactly who He was, but it seemed likely He came from God because He was not only healing people but also casting out demons. Now He boldly forgave a man's sins.

The scribes thought Jesus' startling words were blasphemy because they knew only God Himself had the power to forgive sins. It is God who is wronged by sin. While there may be collateral damage, at its root all sin is against God. King David understood this fact when seeking forgiveness for his despicable acts of adultery and murder. In Psalm 51:4 David humbly repented to God: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned." The very nature of forgiveness makes it impossible for a person who was not wronged to forgive for another. Only the wronged individual has the power to forgive. When Jesus forgave the sins of the man sick with palsy, Jesus was making a claim to deity. Jesus was claiming to be Almighty God.

Group Discussion

1. What is the most audacious action you have ever undertaken in faith?
2. If you have witnessed a healing or some other notable miracle, how did it impact your faith?
3. How can we effectively preach, by word or deed, the forgiveness Jesus so graciously grants?
4. How do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before He healed his body? What would you have thought if you were in the crowd?
5. Have you been able to see yourself in God's story? Perhaps more to the point, are you willing to submit to His plan for your life?

My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?
