



Sermon Series: Trouble, Part 1
Sermon Title: Whatever It Takes
Date: 2/12/2023

Mark 2:1-12

Big Idea: Pursue Jesus; it pays off

This man and his friends relentlessly pursued Jesus, and as a result, we see two outcomes.

Capernaum was Jesus' home base as He preached around the region of Galilee. Mark tells us that Jesus returned home. Now there were many people there – as in flowing out the door. This part of the account begins with a paralyzed man who wanted to get to Jesus because he and the four men with him believed that Jesus could heal him.

It was obvious to them that because of the crowd, there was no way they were getting this man through the front door. So they immediately moved on to plan B. They went up on the roof of the house and started digging a hole through the roof.

We don't know much about those men, but we do know that those five men believed Jesus could heal, and they showed it through their actions. These men were so persistent that no obstacle or risk would stop them from getting this man to Jesus.

1) Jesus healed the man's body and soul

Jesus looked at the man and told him that his sins were forgiven – He addressed the man's deeper need – forgiveness. Jesus came to preach the gospel. This is where Christianity sets itself apart from all other religions. Only Christianity addresses mankind's greatest need which is, simply put, to escape the wrath of God poured out on sinners eternally in hell. Only through the gospel of Jesus Christ can anyone escape the wrath of God.

2) Jesus used the man's situation to prove His authority

So this man was in front of Jesus, and Jesus told him his sins were forgiven. The Pharisees were appalled at that. Jesus knew what they were thinking, and he asked them which was easier to say to the paralyzed man - your sins are forgiven, or take up your mat and walk. Jesus tells the man to walk, and he does!

The Pharisees believed that only God could forgive sins -and that's exactly who Jesus was claiming to be. From their perspective, Jesus was showing utter disrespect talk toward God. This was a big accusation they were raising because the penalty for blasphemy according to the Old Testament is that [Leviticus 24:16](#)

Since Jesus is God, He knew what they were thinking, and He was going to prove to them that He was God and that He did have the authority to forgive sins. [Mark 2:9](#)

After He asks the question, Jesus moves on and said that He's about to prove to the Pharisees that He- Jesus- is God in the flesh and has the authority to forgive sins. That is the central message of Jesus - He alone has the authority to forgive sins.

Here is how that works –

1. If Jesus can cause a paralyzed man to be healed immediately and completely restored and well, He is God.
2. And if He is God, then He alone has the authority to forgive sin.
3. So if Jesus has told the man, "Take up your bed and walk," and the man takes up his bed and walks, that is evidence that He is God, and that action validates the fact that He said, "Your sins are forgiven." That, too, becomes a reality. Only God can do both.

That is precisely what Jesus does - He told the man to stand up, take up his mat and walk. And the man did!

Because this man pursued Jesus, Jesus used his situation to do a miracle and prove that He was God. As God, Jesus could say He came to forgive sinners. Not only to forgive sinners but to provide the sacrifice on which that forgiveness is based. And He is still doing it today.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **How would this man's life be different if he did not pursue Jesus?**
- **Which was easier: to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? Explain**
- **Jesus healed this man's body and forgave him. Does scripture guarantee Jesus will heal anybody's body who comes to Him? Does scripture guarantee that Jesus will forgive everyone who comes to Him? Discuss**
- **How far would you go to get to Jesus? Is there anything that would keep you away from being close to Him? Explain**
- **If you are a follower of Jesus, how has God worked in your life since becoming a Christian?**