

## The Journey

### Series 04: Christ

#### Week 36: Jesus Power and Religious Leaders Plot

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

### Review (Where We Have Been)

#### Questions for Review...

#### When did God first promise to send the Deliverer?

After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

- ✓ Righteousness (and being right with God) was gone
- ✓ Their sin brought death (spiritual, physical, eternal) as payment
- ✓ God promised a Deliverer to pay the sin debt and make people right with God

#### What three special duties was Jesus anointed (set apart) and chosen for?

- God's FINAL Prophet (spoke how people are delivered from sin, Satan and death)
- God's FINAL Priest (make **the** way for man to be reconciled to God)
- God's FINAL King (to forever rule Israel and the world)

Entering into the Kingdom of God requires us to be **Born Again**.

#### 2 Categories of People in the World

-Born Once - In Satan's Kingdom

-Born Twice - God's Kingdom

#### How can a person be born again?

-The Deliverer (Jesus) freely gives eternal life to all who believe

-The Deliverer came to save, not judge

### BIG Idea

Jesus is God

We cannot save ourselves

Jesus is the only one who can save

### Information (What We Need to Know)

Jesus and the paralyzed. - Oxford Dictionary - **Paralyzed** means that a part of a person's body is partly or wholly incapable of movement.

Mark 2-3 are filled with 5 controversies Jesus had with the religious leaders. We are going to look at a couple of them.

Because of Jesus' miracles and authoritative teaching, crowds are following and looking for him. Mark 2 Jesus goes back to Capernaum and people were flocking to wherever he went. In Capernaum, he was in a home and so many had gathered that you could not even get to the door. Houses at that time had flat roofs where families could gather or sleep when it was too hot inside. Hearing that Jesus was in this home and seeing the crowd four friends decided they wanted their 5th friend who was paralyzed to be seen by Jesus at all costs. Homes at that time had steps on the outside in order to get to the roof. So, they climbed with their friend on a mat. Then they tore open the roof and carefully let lowered him down to Jesus.

Before we jump in, many of these people wanted to hear from or be seen or receive a healing touch from Jesus. They heard what had happened with the possessed man in the synagogue (Mark 1:23-28), or the man healed of Leprosy (Mark 1:40-45) But there were also those crowding in with idle curiosity or more nefarious intentions (i.e. - Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, and other religious people)

**Mark 2:5 (ESV) 5** And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Why didn't Jesus just heal him? Why say, "your sins are forgiven?" Jesus understood that sin is the source of all sickness, brokenness, physical problems, and illness. Jesus is not saying that he had sinned, and the result was that they were paralyzed. We live in a world broken and warped because of humanity's sin. Sickness, disease, abuse, violence, hatred, brokenness, and anxiety are all real problems (and

many more) that we face day by day in this world but they are all a result of SIN.

So, why did Jesus say his sins were forgiven and not just you are healed? His friends could have said, wait that is not why we brought him here. Jesus saw their love for him and their faith in Jesus. And Jesus understood that the source of all of our problems is our sin. Jesus in that moment addressed this man's greatest need. His SIN. The root of all pain, suffering, and brokenness is our sinful condition.

“Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.” - Warren Wiersbe

It is amazing to consider the paralytic man's helplessness. He could not get to Jesus on his own. He could not heal himself. There was no medication or physician who could help him. This is like you and me. We are unable to free ourselves from Satan's hold and power in our lives or to escape the punishment for our sins. We are all broken and helpless before Jesus. Thankfully his friends loved him enough to take him to the one true healer. They just wanted him to walk. Little did they know that Jesus would address the man's biggest need.

Keep reading...

**Mark 2:6-12 (ESV)** 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?” 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’? 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!”

There is so much going on here. Only God could perceive what the scribes were thinking. And Jesus just lays it out there. This is what is going on in your mind right now. “How can I say this? Am I blaspheming by forgiving this man’s sin? Only God can forgive sin! YOU ARE CORRECT. Yes, I am claiming to be God and I am doing God’s work. I am forgiving SIN.

In this moment Jesus is exposing the truly paralyzed ones. It is the scribes and religious leaders. They had use of all their limbs (arms and legs). Their paralysis was in their hearts. They had hearts of stone just like everyone else. They refused to acknowledge it!

If you have followed along in the Journey, you have seen God address Israel's hardened hearts. Hearts of Stone. (**Ezekiel 11:19, 36:25-27**) These religious leaders hearts are so hardened that they don't even see God right in front of them. They are deaf to the truth. They are blind.

Jesus is proving his point with the paralyzed man and these scribes. The greatest need everyone needs to deal with is SIN. Jesus not only cured him physically but restored him spiritually. Now racing and dancing away from the house was proof that Jesus was God who not only forgives sin and brings new life but also restores and heals our broken bodies.

Jesus forgave the sins of the paralyzed man and restored his body.

Jesus shows His power and authority as God to not only see this man's greatest need. But Jesus takes his heart of stone and brings it back to life. But only God knows what is going on in our minds.

Three clear things Jesus gives to these religious scribes.

**Jesus forgives sin.**

**Jesus restores the body.**

**Jesus knows and understands the thoughts and intents of our minds.**

**Psalm 139:2-3** - Only God knows our ways. Our movements. Our thoughts. He knows all of our ways. - Jesus being God knows these Scribes and their thoughts and intents. **I Chronicles 28:9** - King David says, The Lord searches the hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts.

Jesus' reference to himself as the Son of Man draws the attention of the scribes to **Daniel 7:13-14**. Where it speaks that the Son of Man has all the authority of God. Jesus is claiming that authority.

**Jesus had the full authority of God**

**Jesus came to save those who realize they are sinners**

**Mark 2:13-17 (ESV)** He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. **14** And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. **15** And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16** And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **17** And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

More controversy and scandal. Jesus calls the most hated and disrespected of all Jews to be his follower. Tax collectors were considered thieves against their own people. Not just taking money for Rome but charging their fees to line their pockets. They were extremely wealthy and hated, abhorred, despised, abandoned and rejected by their families. They were equated with murderers. Jews hated them so much that they felt it was right to lie to their faces with impunity. This is who Jesus calls to follow Him. And what a request. To leave all the things, all the wealth, comfort behind and follow Jesus.

In my freshman-year speech class, I met Robert. He and his 18-year-old daughter were taking freshmen speech together. His introductory speeches I will never forget. He was a 50-year-old man starting Bible College to be a pastor. He was from New York and was an enforcer for the mafia. A leg breaker before he surrendered his life to Christ. His second speech was he and his daughter showing their high degree black belts in an amazing demonstration and further explaining his story. No one is beyond the grace of God. No matter what you have done salvation is available through Jesus Christ. Matthew extorted his own town (acquaintances and family). Robert did some heinous things for the mafia in the 70s, 80s and 90s. And did time. Paul was killing Jesus followers. No one is beyond the love and grace of God. Turn from that sin and follow Jesus. Jesus came and died for ALL of us.

**Jesus showed he had authority over the Sabbath**

**Jesus again restores a man's body**

**Those who were religious hated and sought to kill Jesus**

Jesus was again at a synagogue on the Sabbath and met a man with a withered hand. A hand that was immovable and paralyzed. I say it that way because we have another contrast between a man restored and the paralyzed hearts of the Pharisees. Again, God is right in front of them. Displaying His love, power, and authority. Their hearts are so hardened they begin to plan how to kill Jesus. The Pharisees do not care about people but only about their rules and authority. Hearts of stone. They would rather work with their sworn enemies the followers of Herod than listen to or follow Jesus.

**Mark 3:5-6 (ESV)** And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Heart paralysis is a problem that sends people to hell. An inability to see, listen, and understand who Jesus is. And to repent. Turn from their sin to him for forgiveness and a new heart.



How bad is heart paralysis?

Even demons know and acknowledge Jesus as God

**Mark 3:11-12 (ESV)** And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” **12** And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

Jesus does not need the help of demons. He will silence them and proclaim the truth of who he is. He will take anyone who comes to him for new life and he will fully and freely give it.

Simon Peter my favorite disciple says in **Acts 4:12** - There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

**Mark 3:13-16 & 19 (ESV)** And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. **14** And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach **15** and have authority to cast out demons. **16** He appointed the twelve: **19** and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

No one can hide their true self from God

## **Application (What We Need to Do)**

Will you turn from your sin and surrender your life to Jesus?

We cannot hide.

We all must stand before God one day. Why wait?