

MARK — The Son of Man

Pastor Perry Burkholder

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The New International Version. (2011). (Mk 2:1–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.




How would the world be different if everyone knew that they were forgiven?

A claim attributed to the late American psychiatrist went like this: "... [if] all the patients in our psychiatric hospitals were convinced that God had forgiven them, 75 percent of

them could walk out and go home the very next day, and they would be entirely different people."

We Are Forgiven!

One-hundred years ago, most people thought mental illness was incurable. Back then, if you had a mental problem and ended up in a doctor's office, you could expect two options. You could "snap out

 https://www.averyjournal.com/avery/we-are-forgiven/article_f9517a1f-be0a-5e3d-92c4-486c68cfc94.html

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If we reflect on that, we would probably see the possibility that our lives could be different if we believed that. But perhaps someone more convinced of the power of forgiveness was Jesus, who thought it was more important than physical healing.

Your Sins Are Forgiven

Forgiveness was so important to Jesus that when confronted with sickness and suffering, he opts to forgive their sins first.

Several things about this are surprising.

Number one: When Jesus is claiming to forgive sins, this is blasphemy — if he is only a human. When have we seen a human ever have the audacity to come up to a stranger and say that they have the authority to forgive their mistakes and failures.

Number two: When Jesus claims that the "Son of Man" can forgive sins, he is referring specifically to the "Cloud Rider Son of Man" who was given authority to rule all nations at YHWH -Creator-God's right hand, with all of YHWH's authority and power.

Jesus is claiming to be the final human who will rule over all people.

But then Jesus acknowledges that talk is cheap. It's easy to claim to be the Son of Man, but to prove that he has the authority to make that claim, he backs it up by showing that he can reverse the power of paralysis.

More Powerful Than Temporary Healing

The paralytic has since died, but what lasts forever is the fact that his sins are forgiven. The greatest healing the paralytic received that day was that his sins were forgiven.



We as humans are sidetracked by the temporary material things, and forget our deepest needs along the way. Jesus hasn't forgotten those more profound needs — he came to heal us of our sins.

Most humans live as if they are God, and minimize the implications of sin in our lives.

But once this body gives out and dies, do we have the healing that will unite us back into a new physical body with heaven and earth?

Living Under a Curse

The reason our bodies give way to cancer and covid is because we live under a curse. We know something is wrong with death. We rage against death and suffering and want to live in safety so we can avoid death as long as we can shows that our biggest problem is sin and death.

... Which was the result of sin and rebellion.

... Which means that forgiveness from sin and rebellion is how we address our fundamental problems.

God doesn't just judge our actions, but our thoughts and the inner motives of the heart. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus takes the Torah (the 613 laws of the Old Testament) and internalizes them to our hearts.

- Adultery isn't measured by being caught in someone's bed, but whether you were in their bed in your mind's eye.

Facing Judgment

When all humans stand in judgment before God, the one who judges them will be King Jesus, the Son of Man. This is good news for those whose allegiance is to King Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The New International Version. (2011). (2 Co 5:10). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Christian, we are never promised tomorrow. We will die and stand in judgment before the King. Do not be deceived by a false sense of safety; you are not guaranteed tomorrow.

Jesus' compassion for the paralytic was evident by this eternal perspective. He wanted that paralytic man to pass through judgment into eternal life. The paralytic man was forgiven of his sin and rebellion so that he could be in right relationship with the King.

If we lack a comprehension of this eternal perspective, we will be hindered.

Forgiven people live differently because we have confidence that we can approach the throne of God without seeing judgment.

Are you prepared for the judgment?

Because the good news of the gospel is that you can be prepared because of what King Jesus has done for you.

Why Does This Matter?

Some of us are paralyzed on the inside. We're lying on a stretcher of guilt and shame, thinking "my sin is too bad for God to forgive."

But the reality is that there is nothing too dark and too disgusting for God to forgive.

And if we are withholding forgiveness from the darkness and disgustingness of other human beings, then we're equally paralyzed. They need your forgiveness just like you need Jesus' forgiveness.

If you have forgiveness, wouldn't you want your friends and family to know about it? If this is the main thing that was one the forefront of how Jesus interacted with people, wouldn't it also be on our minds?

It takes a mind centered on the main thing, to cherish that forgiveness, in order to motivate us to share with others what we have.