

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

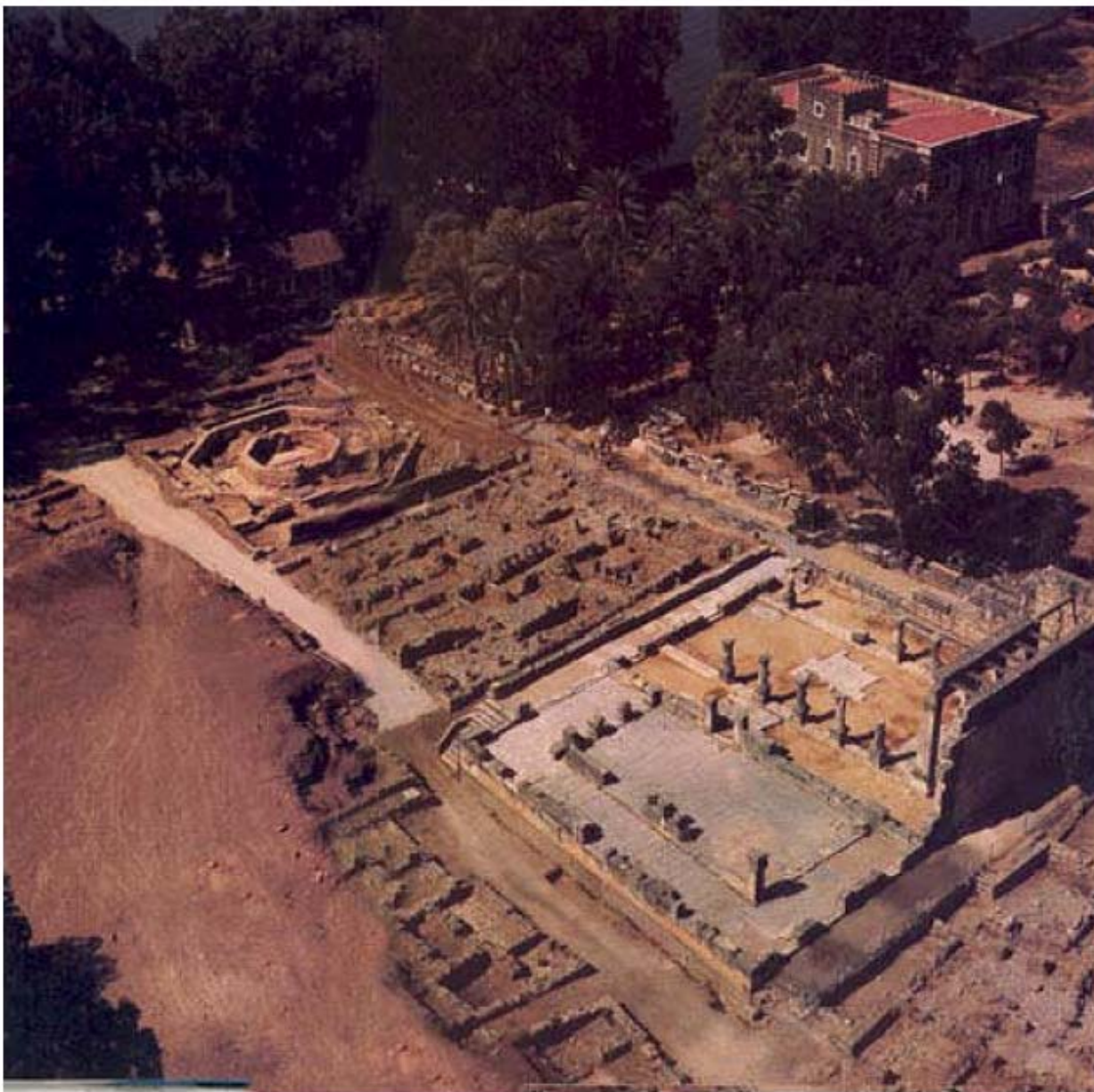
PART 6 - YOUR DEEPEST NEED

In 2:1-12 Mark teaches us about ...

- Our deepest problem
- Jesus and forgiveness
- Jesus and holistic healing

1. Our Deepest Problem

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. Mark 2:1-4



Garo Nalbandian, courtesy Fr. Virgilio Corbo

The Capernaum synagogue, residential area and octagonal church, clustered on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.

- The Capernaum Synagogue (Mark 1:21 – the unclean spirit)
- The Disciple Peter's House (Mark 1:29)

Paul Miller on Jesus & People

When Jesus interacts with people, he narrows his focus down to one person. When he encounters a lame man by the pool of Bethesda, he first sees a multitude; then he sees just him. In the midst of “a multitude of invalids — blind, lame, and paralysed.... Jesus saw him lying there” (John 5: 3,6). When Jesus is with someone, that person is the only person in the room. Jesus slows down and concentrates on one person at a time. The way he loves people is identical to the way he prays to his Father. This one-person focus is how love works. Love incarnates by slowing down and focusing on just the beloved. We don't love in general; we love one person at a time.

Our Deepest Problem is Sin

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
“Son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2:1-4

Cynthia Heimel

I pity [celebrities]. No, I do. [Celebrities] were once perfectly pleasant human beings . . . but now . . . their -wrath is awful. . . . More than any of us, they wanted fame. They worked, they pushed. . . . The morning after . . . each of them became famous, they wanted to take an overdose . . . because that giant thing they were striving for, that fame thing that was going to make everything okay, that was going to make their lives bearable, that was going to provide them with personal fulfilment and . . . happiness, had happened. And nothing changed. They were still them. The disillusionment turned them howling and insufferable.

I think when God wants to play a really rotten practical joke on you, he grants your deepest wish.

Schweizer

It is not as if this sick man were unusually sinful, but his case makes the universal separation of man from God more conspicuous and illustrates the truth which is proclaimed over and over in the Old Testament, that all suffering is rooted in man's separation from God. For this reason, Jesus must call attention here to man's deepest need; otherwise the testimony of this healing would remain nothing more than the story of a remarkable miracle.

Sin is a Massive Problem

What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.
Matthew 15:18-20

2. Jesus and Forgiveness

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 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? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? Mark 2:5–9

Jesus' Forgiveness & the Cross

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:23-25

Paul Miller on Mark 1

Word of the healing and the exorcism race through the seaside city of Capernaum. But the tradition of the elders doesn't permit healing on the Sabbath unless it is life threatening, so the town waits until evening. Mark tells us that as soon as the sun went down, "the whole city was gathered together at the door." It is easy to imagine the street in front of his house illuminated by the soft glow of hundreds of flickering oil lamps. Jesus heals far into the night. That's why he came — there aren't supposed to be mute children, abandoned wives, or thoughtless bosses. It is a remarkable day — the evening and morning of the first day of a new creation. The new Adam rolls back the curse and cuts through evil. Demons and sickness flee the presence of Life. Aslan is on the move.

3. Jesus and Holistic Healing

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 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!”
Mark 2:10-12

Jesus' Actual Drive is Healing

- So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. Matthew 4:23-24
- ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:38

Asking ...

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. James 4:1-3

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. James 5:13-16

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

I was afraid of his claws, I can tell you, but I was pretty nearly desperate now. . . . The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt. . . . Well, he peeled the beastly stuff right off—just as I thought I'd done it myself the other three times, only they hadn't hurt—and there it was lying on the grass: only ever so much thicker, and darker, and more knobbly-looking than the others had been. . . . Then he caught hold of me . . . and threw me into the water. It smarted like anything but only for a moment. . . . Then I saw . . . I'd turned into a boy again.