



Mar 2:1-12 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 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. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 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. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 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!"

#### Not the Miracle he wanted!

Mark 2:1-12

Our text this week reveals a growing crowd of curious and needy seekers! Why were they here?

What was Jesus doing as they brought the paralyzed man?

What dramatic measure was taken to get their friend to Jesus?

What caught Jesus' attention?

What did Jesus do for the desperate, needy man?

Interestingly, Scribes were there? What were they questioning and what unalterable Truth created a certain dilemma?

Which is easier? Forgiving sins or healing the unhealable?

Why is it clearly wrong to "forgive myself?" and how then should we deal with Guilt/Shame?

What did they say that declares a powerful testimony?

[Mat 9:1-8 ESV] 1 And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. 2 And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he then said to the paralytic--"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." 7 And he rose and went home. 8 When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

[Luk 5:17-26 ESV] 17 On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. 18 And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, 19 but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your

hearts? 23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--he said to the man who was paralyzed--"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." 25 And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. 26 And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."



Was he born this way? A Birth defect?

Did He have an accident? Like Mephibosheth <u>2Sa 4:4</u>

Did He have an illness? Encephalitis or stroke

Was he assaulted? Harmed? Broken back?

Were these friends, family, servants he paid?

What might this say about his character? And also about his hope or lack thereof?

Jesus saw the 4 men's faith, not the infirmed man?!

Was this a Lot of trouble or No trouble at all?!

# Where there's a Will, there's a Way!

- He returned to Capernaum ... he was at home
- Many were gathered together, so that there was no more room
- And He was preaching the word to them. Power of words!
- They came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

he was preaching the word to them!

They were there to hear teaching Not a Healing service per se.

The 4 heard the report Jesus was there and the prior report of what He could do, **they went** out of their way, bore a friend's/Family? burden, taking a chance that He'd still be there, that He'd care and that He could do this kind of Miracle!

Their Faith paid off! At least for forgiveness!

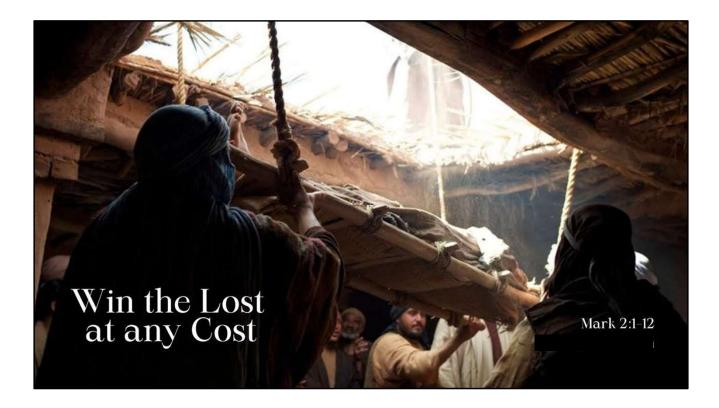
#### Where there's a Will, there's a Way!

- -Jesus is worth the trouble, There was No room, but they kept coming and listening! Climbed to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, tore off roof and lowered him! Jesus' Will made a way! TO become a man!
- -the Lost are not a burden, when you Love them! The mortals will made a way to get the infirmed to Jesus!

they could not get near him because of the crowd 2:4,

They could've waited until the crowds dispersed and they were the last ones left!

Do we evangelize with Urgency?



Win the Lost at Any cost!!?? It cost someone else!!

Remember when Jesus cast the demons into Swine? They asked him to leave!!

I wonder how the homeowner felt about his new roof problem??!

Think others opened their homes after this?

## Which is a harder miracle? Greater Love?

- When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
- "Son, your sins are forgiven." (past tense, done deal)
  - Disappointment anyone? Was that what he wanted??!
  - Disturbed scribes! Hey, He can't do that! Unless He's God!
  - Discerning hearts, Jesus exposed the faithless and His Deity

Which is a harder miracle? Greater Love? It was more loving of Jesus to only forgive his sins and heal his soul and relationship with God than heal his body!

<u>IF Jesus had not healed him of being paralyzed</u>, Would it have been a Loving act to only forgive Sin? (Didn't that question just offend? Forgiveness is THE BIG Issue!

### What did you see?:

The Homeowner saw ungrateful men rudely imposing upon his hospitality (tearing up his roof), crowds taking over his house, dirtying the place

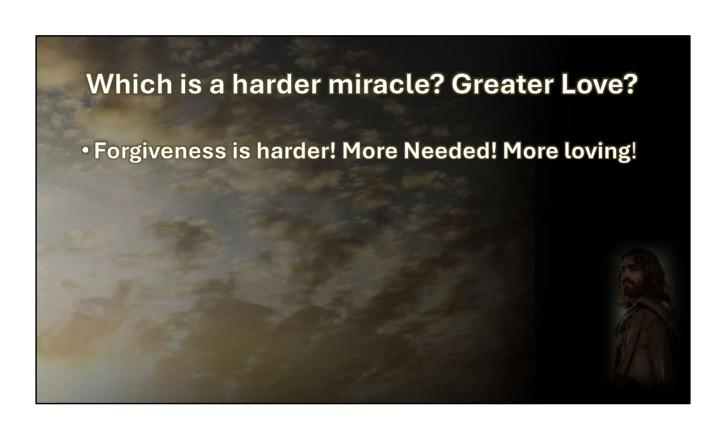
The 4 men saw Jesus as a miracle worker who might be able to help and asserted their wishes above others

The paralytic likely saw himself an unworthy burden and this a hopeless situation Jesus saw a much bigger problem! SIN and separation from God and shortsightedness that He is GOD!

The scribes saw a deep truth correctly and an incorrect application

The crowds saw an amazing show, unlike anything they'd ever seen! A Great story to tell!

Healing the paralysis was a simple command but remember this man eventually died of something. The wages of sin were NOT resolved by a healing miracle, that took an incarnational atonement miracle!





The Lord heals us of the Graver illness 1st!

We tend to look at the Present physical world, Jesus at Internal/Eternal!

We tend toward the empowering (make me more able), Jesus at the God glorifying (only God could do it)

We tend to our comforts and preferences, Jesus at the mission! This guy has now, to some extent, become the focal point, instead of Jesus!

# "Who can forgive sins but God alone!"

- The Scribes: Correct Theology, wrong judgement!
  - Questioning in their hearts, (Not aloud)
  - "Why does this man speak like that?"
  - He is blaspheming! (attributing to a mere mortal; divinity!)
  - "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (Jesus; I am GOD!)

Early on the Scribes Questioned, Then they Critiqued, Then they Condemned

Psa 130:4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Blasphemy is not just belittling God, its also stealing Gods Glory! And Authority!

[Mar 14:64 ESV] 64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

[Mat 9:3 ESV] 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Mk.2 "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

[Mat 26:65 ESV] 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

[Jhn 10:33, 36 ESV] 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." ... 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?

[Mar 14:61-62 ESV] 61 But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 And Jesus said, "I am, and

you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

[Job 14:4 ESV] 4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one.

[Isa 43:25 ESV] 25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

[Luk 5:21 ESV] 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

[Luk 7:49 ESV] 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

[Luk 7:44 ESV] 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

Only one other time do I recall that Jesus forgave a person's sins (<u>Luke</u> 7:48) and it was not as part of a miracle. In John 5:14 Jesus tells a crippled man He has healed, "Do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you;"

[Job 10:14 ESV] 14 If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity.



Only God can forgive sins!

President Biden forgave his own Son of all crimes?! But Does God??

There is a popular teaching in the world that MANY Christians have adopted and its BLASPHEMY!!! Forgive yourself!!

## You Cannot Forgive yourself! Blasphemy!!!

- Adam & Eve! Sin = Death! OT Animal Sacrifices!
- Hebrews 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
- God Hates! Sin! Only the Offended can forgive!

[Lev 17:11 ESV] 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

[Rom 6:23 ESV] 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Only the aggrieved/Offended can forgive! Sin is Serious!

- -Rapists can't forgive themselves
- -Murderer's cant forgive themselves, Hamas terrorists
- -Abusers can't forgive themselves
- -White collar embezzlers and
- -Thieves cannot forgive themselves
- -Sociopaths cannot forgive themselves, they don't want to either!
- -The officials who falsely Imprisoned someone for  $30~\mathrm{yrs}$

## That's all called injustice

God hates the workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5)

God hates the wicked (Psalm 11:5)

God hates the sacrifices of the wicked (Proverbs 15:8)

God hates the ways of the wicked (Proverbs 15:9)

God hates the thoughts of the wicked (Proverbs 15:26)

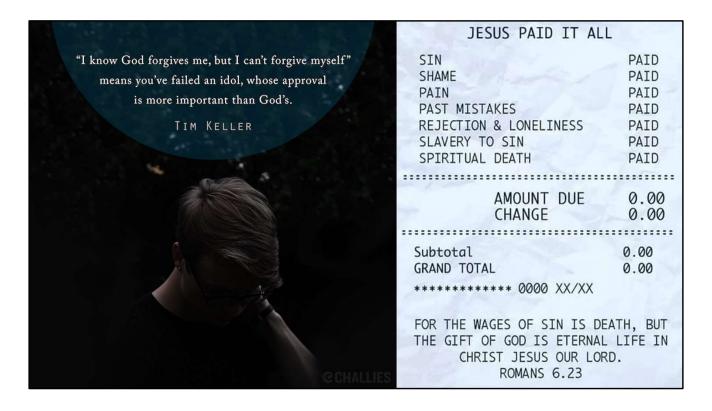
God hates feet that make haste to run to evil (Proverbs 6:18)

God hated Esau (Malachi 1:1-3; Romans 9:13)

God hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6)

Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV - These six things doth the LORD HATE: yea, seven are an ABOMINATION unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and HANDS that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, FEET that be swift in running to mischief, A FALSE WITNESS that speaketh lies, and HE that SOWETH DISCORD among brethren.





I know God forgives me, BUT I can't forgive myself" means you've failed an idol, whose approval is more important than Gods.

Tim Keller

Forgiveness is a GIFT, That only God can give!

Its like stealing a precious work of art and giving it to yourself to forgive yourself

## 'I Know God Forgives Me, But I Can't Forgive Myself,' Says Woman Whose Moral Compass Is More Developed Than God's



#### **Babylon Bee**

'I know God Forgives me,

BUT I can't forgive myself',

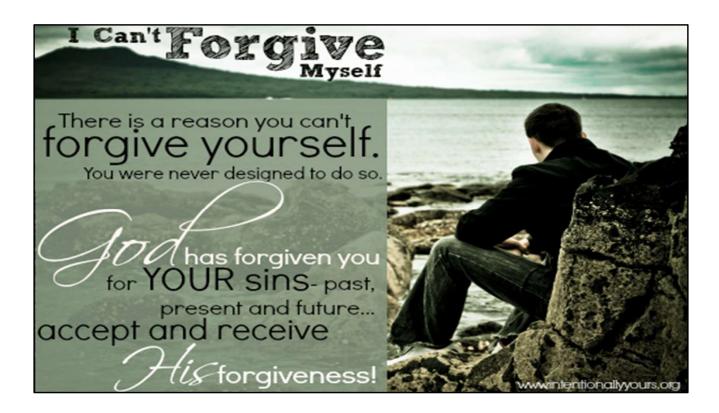
Says woman whose Moral Compass is more developed than Gods!



If God says, 'I forgive you,' you are Forgiven!!

No matter how you feel, and to refuse that forgiveness is an act of Arrogance! ( I know better than God!)

RC Sproul!



#### I can't forgive myself

There is a reason you can't forgive yourself. You were never designed to do so! God has forgiven you for your sins- past, present and future!...

Accept and receive His Forgiveness!!

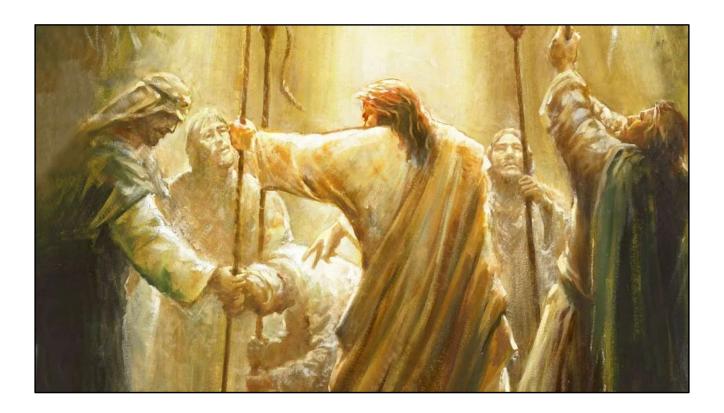
# BITTERNESS IS BELIEVING GOD GOT IT WRONG, WORRY IS NOT BELIEVING GOD WILL GET IT RIGHT, AND UNFORGIVENESS IS BELIEVING YOU ARE RIGHT EVEN AFTER GOD SAYS YOU'RE WRONG.

Bitterness is believing God got it wrong,

Worry is Not believing God will get it right,

And <u>Unforgiveness is believing you are right even after God says you're wrong!</u> (when I NEED to forgive! And wont)

And Believing you are still in sin When God says you are NOT! (when I need forgiveness)



Often, you will find Jesus at the end of your rope!

# Forgiving yourself???

- Puts a band aid on a heart attack! Sees a Problem!
- Dismisses sin and Belittles Christ's sacrifice!
- Heeds the Devil instead of God's promises (Fig Leaf)
- Disgraces Jesus' blood and exalts self!
- Arrogantly assumes authority not yours! Run to Him!

Why do we even want to forgive ourselves?

We recognize a very real persistent haunting, Guilt and Shame!! It is Crushing!!! Headaches, Depression, Stress – illnesses,

Heeds the Devil instead of Gods promises (Fig Leaf) Its repeating Eden yet again! Its believing Satand accusations OVER Gods Lavish love and sacrifice! Its is finished!!!

[Heb 6:13-18 ESV] 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.



## Paid in Full - tetelestai

- Grieve our evil and its price wages of sin Death!
- Genuine Confession No cheap apologies
   Psalm 51, John 21
- Visiting the Cross! Sin must be paid for! 1 John 1:8-9

No cheap apologies – blameshifting, excusing, mitigating/explaining, sorry for the other persons feelings....**ASK FORGIVENESS!** 

1Jo 1:8-10 ESV] 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

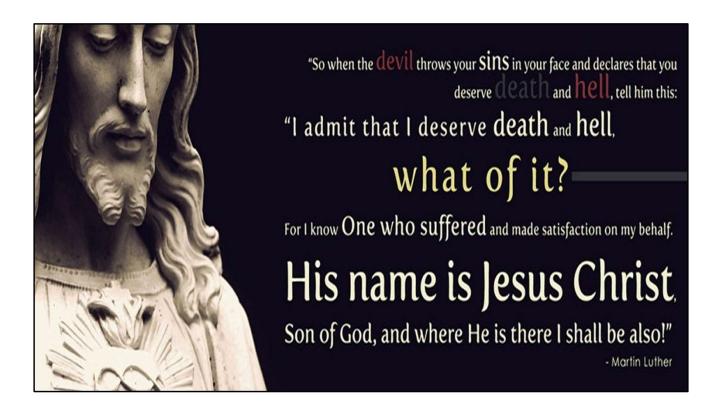
"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: "I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also."

- Martin Luther, Bondage of the Will (HT Reformed Spirit)

[Jhn 19:30 ESV] 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

# Paid in Full - tetelestai

- I can not pay for my sins in full, nor have authority to forgive!
- Faith! In His grace (I still don't deserve it). It is Finished!
- His, is the final word!

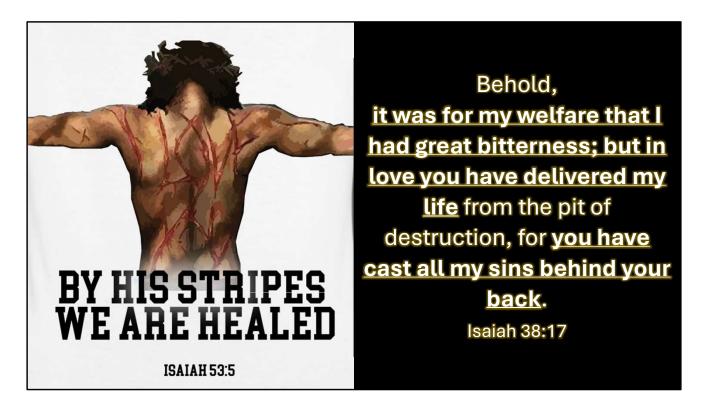


"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this:

"I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it?

For I know One who suffered and <u>made satisfaction on my behalf</u>. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!"

- Martin Luther



Notice the "I Love you" etched into His back with the whip!

[Psa 119:67 ESV] 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. [Psa 119:71 ESV] 71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

[1Co 11:32 ESV] 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

[Heb 12:11 ESV] 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

[Isa 38:17 ESV] 17 Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

[Isa 53:4-6, 11-12 ESV] 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 <u>But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.</u> 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the

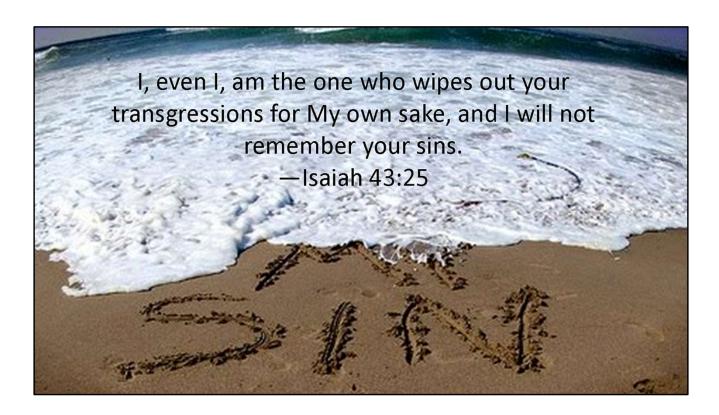
iniquity of us all. ... 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

[Isa 38:1, 3, 5, 8-9, 13-17, 21 ESV] 1 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die, you shall not recover." ... 3 and said, "Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ... 5 "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. ... 8 Behold, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps." So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined. 9 A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, after he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness: ... 13 I calmed myself until morning; like a lion he breaks all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end. 14 Like a swallow or a crane I chirp; I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my pledge of safety! 15 What shall I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul. 16 O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live! 17 Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. ... 21 Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, that he may recover."



[Isa 38:17 ESV] 17 Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

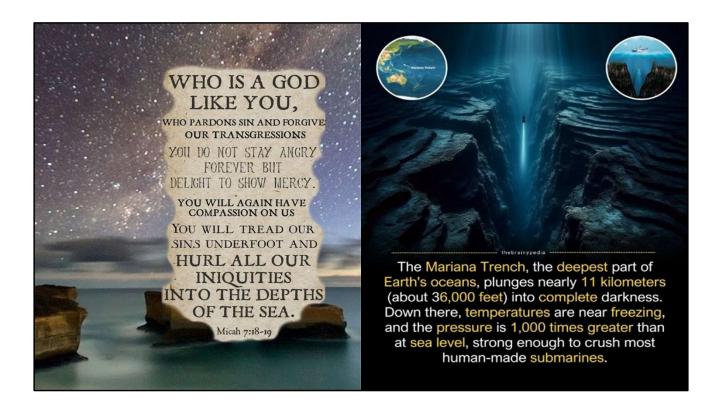
Isa 43:25 ESV "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.



[Isa 43:25 ESV] 25 "I, <u>I am he who blots out your transgressions</u> for my own sake, and <u>I will not remember your sins.</u>"



[Psa 103:8-14, 17 ESV] 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ... 17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children



[Mic 7:18-19 ESV] 18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. 19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah says that our sins are hurled into the sea, what could be called a "Sea of Forgetfulness", a place where sins go to die.

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. —Micah 7:19

One evening I attended a speaking event featuring <u>Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch evangelist</u>. She had spent time in a Nazi prison camp for hiding Jews during the Second World. War. She was miraculously freed from her imprisonment and traveled the world speaking about the love of God and the forgiveness of sins.

That night she said something that King David would agree with, and that Micah would surely love too. She said,

"God has taken our sin and thrown it into the sea of forgetfulness, and posted a sign that says, 'NO FISHING ALLOWED"



We can't pay for our sins! Why did Jesus come?!

No amount of Hail Mary's

No number of penitent acts

No acts of contrition can replace or improve upon the bloody sacrifice of the sinless son of God!

# "We never saw anything like this!"

- Are you bringing people to Jesus? He ain't heavy, he's my brother!
- Jesus sees, and meets, our deepest needs!
- It is much harder, costlier and more loving to forgive!
- The paralytic believed! He could walk & was forgiven!
- We never saw anything like Jesus! And never will!

[Mar 1:27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

[Mat 9:33 ESV] 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel."

[Jhn 7:31 ESV] 31 Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, "When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?"

[Jhn 7:46 ESV] 46 The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

[Jhn 9:32 ESV] 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.

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## He ain't heavy, he's my brother!

... The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows where
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

... So on we go
His welfare is of my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there

... For I know

He would not encumber me

He ain't heavy, he's my brother

... If I'm laden at all
I'm laden with sadness
That everyone's heart
Isn't filled with the gladness
Of love for one another

... It's a long, long road From which there is no return While we're on the way to there Why not share?

... And the load

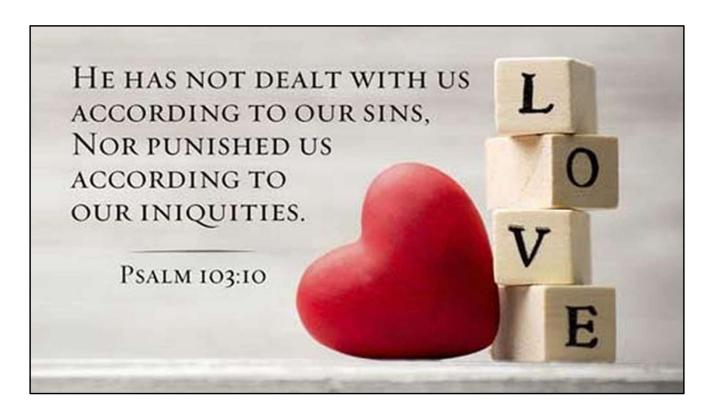
Doesn't weigh me down at all

He ain't heavy, he's my brother

... He's my brother He ain't heavy, he's my brother He ain't heavy, he's my brother

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Bob Russell / Bobby Scott



[Psa 24:3-4 ESV] 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Malachi 3:2 ESV — But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

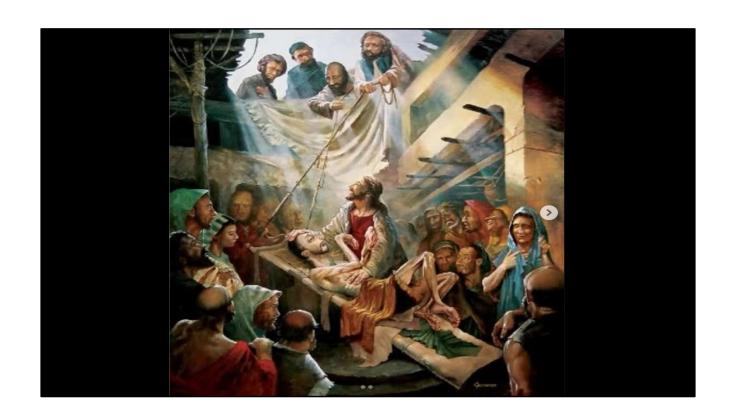
Job 10:14: "If I sin, then You mark me, and You will not acquit me from my iniquity".

Ps.130.3 New International Version

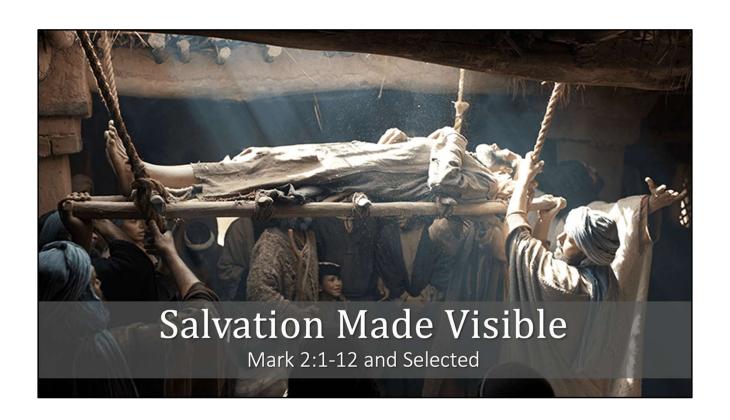
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

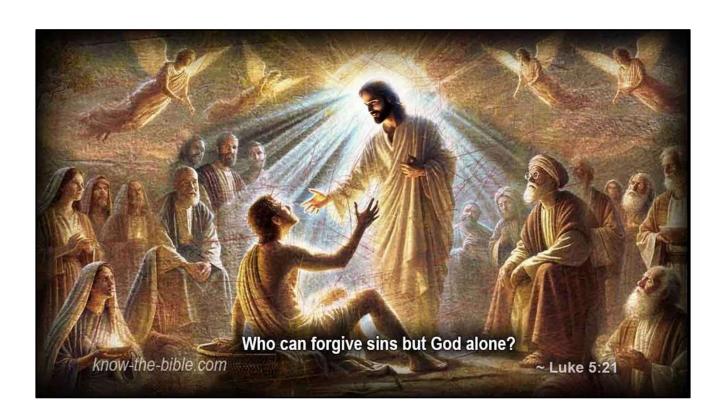
"THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN FORGIVE SIN, OR FORGIVE A CRIME, IS THE PERSON WHO THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED AGAINST... GOD'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE ALL THE CRIMES AGAINST HIM."

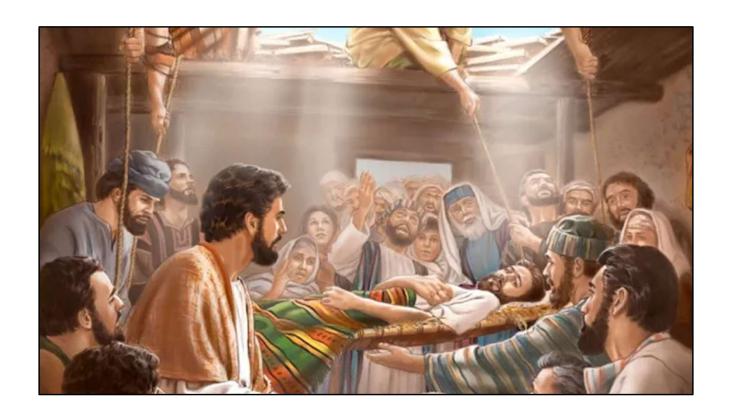
Robby Lashua



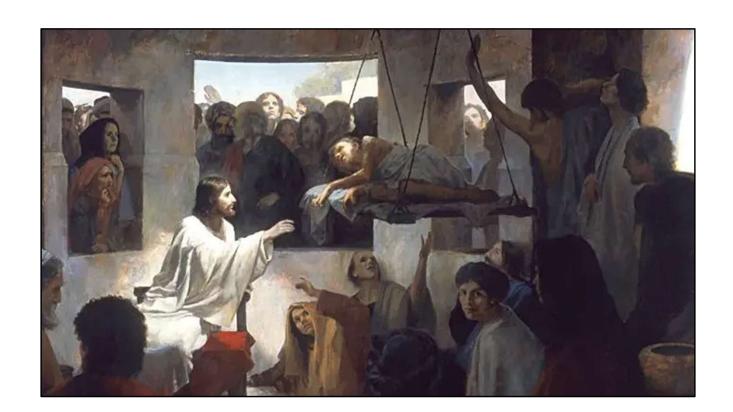


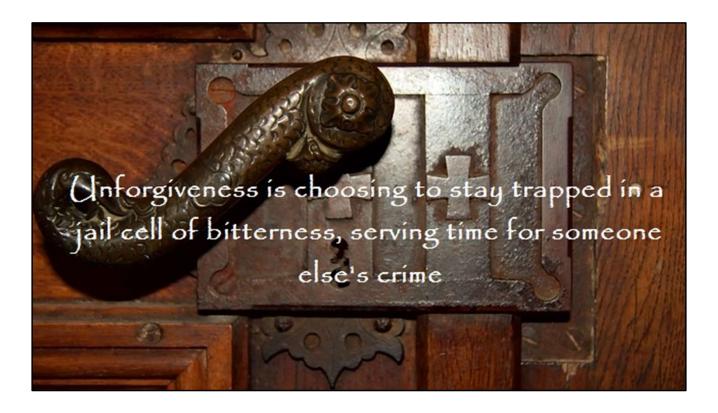












Unforgiveness is choosing to stay trapped in a jail cell of bitterness, serving time for someone else's crime



When people say, 'I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself', they mean that they have failed an idol, whose approval is more important than Gods!

Tim Keller



## He Brings Up The Paralyzed And Brings Down The Scribes

A reflection on Mark 2:1-12 and the politics of forgiveness

Telling It Tash

