

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning – 5-5-24  
Christianity 102 – Message 36 Part 1  
The Power of Forgiveness

1. Introduction:
  - a. Taking a look back:
    - 1) Who is Nicodemus?
    - 2) Nicodemus thought himself to be a Christian because he was a descendant of Abraham and one who followed/kept the Law.
    - 3) Jesus was very clear with him. John 3:7 – “you must be born again.”
    - 4) Did that ever happen?
  - b. Taking a look ahead:
    - 1) Jesus has wrapped up His conversation with Nicodemus and keeps moving toward –
    - 2) We gain so much life wisdom from Jesus’s life.
2. Jesus is in the house: Mark 2:1-2
  - a. Possibly Peter’s home:
    - 1) Jesus is in Capernaum, and we find Him sitting in a house.
      - a) “there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door.”
      - b) What has Jesus been preaching?
      - c) What is the point of the Gospel?
3. An amazing moment of faith: Mark 2:3-4
  - a. Five men:
    - 1) Jesus is preaching the truth to those who have gathered.
    - 2) The story moves from what is taking place inside to outside.
    - 3) These men coming to see Jesus cannot get into the house.
      - a) These men were not hindered by this situation.
    - 4) Do you find it amazing what they did? What do you see?
      - a) Do you see concern for this man?
      - b) Do you see any faith in their hearts?
      - c) Do you see persistence?
      - d) Do you see unity?
    - 5) Application – What do you see in yourself?
4. It really gets interesting here. Mark 2:5-8
  - a. What a teaching moment: Verse 5-7
    - 1) Jesus saw their faith in Him.
      - a) This man was sick with “palsy” – paralysis and tremors.
      - b) What would Jesus say?
    - 2) Verse 6 and 7 – what is going through the scribe’s minds?
  - b. Is anybody really listening? Verse 8
    - 1) Jesus asked, “Why reason ye these things in your hearts”?
    - 2) What just happened? What was at the heart of this man’s problem? Was it – Palsy or sin?
    - 3) That question adjusts our focus.
    - 4) Jesus goes right to the heart of this man’s problem – sin.
    - 5) Jesus knowing his greatest need and seeing a broken heart looked him in the eye and said, “Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”
    - 6) The power of forgiveness – that is what Jesus has come to do.
    - 7) In this man’s life, his greatest need was to be forgiven.
      - a) Revelation 1:5 –
  - c. The truth still needs to be proclaimed: Verse 8b-10.

- 1) Jesus now addresses them and answers their question.
  - 2) Verse 9 – Jesus posed a question.
  - 3) Verse 10 – “So that you may know...”
  - 4) Verse 11 – “Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.”
    - a) Why did Jesus do this?
  - 5) Verse 12 – History records for us that this man was healed.
5. The Power of Forgiveness:
- a. Forgiveness isn't an option as a believer.
    - 1) Ephesians 4:32 –
    - 2) Colossians 3:13 –
  - b. The Question is – To release or not release. Matthew 18:21-22
    - 1) Peter's question revealed he misunderstood forgiveness.
  - c. Two sides of forgiveness:
    - 1) Matthew 18:23-27 – The Grace side of forgiveness.
      - a) Forgiveness isn't about earning, deserving, repayment or getting even, it is about GRACE!  
It is GRACE received and GRACE released.
    - 2) Matthew 18:28-30 – The natural side – unforgiveness.
      - a) Jesus describes the sin between people as a debt.
6. Today's Take Away:
- a. What theology of forgiveness are you practicing?
  - b. Forgiveness changed my life, has it changed yours?