

Intro

~ Who is Jesus? In Mark 2 he's a preacher, forgiver, discerner and healer

~ As this chapter begins, Jesus had already performed several miracles. In chapter 1, the text says that the whole city had gathered at Peter's house to see Jesus and that Jesus could not publicly enter a city. Chapter 2 begins as a continuation of this theme. Jesus was speaking and the crowds were so large there was standing room only.

Holman New Testament Commentary - Holman New Testament Commentary – Mark.

Life in Palestine

Life in Palestine was very public. In the morning the door of the house was opened and anyone who wished might come out and in. The door was never shut unless a man deliberately wished for privacy; an open door meant an open invitation for all to come in. In the humbler houses, such as this must have been, there was no entrance hall; the door opened directly on to the street. So, in no time, a crowd had filled the house to capacity and jammed the pavement round the door; and they were all eagerly listening to what Jesus had to say.

Roof

The roof of a Palestinian house was flat. It was regularly used as a place of rest and of quiet, and so usually there was an outside stair which ascended to it. The construction of the roof lent itself to what this ingenious four proposed to do. The roof consisted of flat beams laid across from wall to wall, perhaps three feet apart. The space in between the beams was filled with brushwood packed tight with clay. The top was then marled over. Very largely the roof was of earth and often a flourishing crop of grass grew on the roof of a Palestinian house. It was the easiest thing in the world to dig out the rifling between two of the beams; it did not even damage the house very much, and it was easy to repair the breach again. So the four men dug out the filling between two of the beams and let their friend down direct at Jesus' feet. When Jesus saw this faith that laughed at barriers he must have smiled an understanding smile. He looked at the man, "Child," he said, "your sins are forgiven."

The hole would have to be large enough to get the cot through. Add to this the annoyance of the people below. Debris would be falling on them as they tried to listen to the words of Jesus. A further complicating matter would be the damage to someone else's property. We have no idea how the owner of the house, whether it was Simon Peter or someone else, reacted to the destruction of his property, but we can imagine that it came as quite a shock! *Holman New Testament Commentary*

Outline

Jesus is preaching

Jesus is forgiving

Pharisees are criticizing

Jesus is discerning

Jesus is healing

Jesus is glorified

The context of the previous chapters tell us that Jesus now has a following so that he couldn't go anywhere openly (Mk 1:46)

That sets the stage for the unusual scene we see in Mark 2:1-12

Jesus is preaching

V1 Jesus goes back to Capernaum again. The previous time is Mark 1:21-28 where he cast out an unclean spirit in the synagogue

- Capernaum was the home of Simon Peter. This city was Jesus' base of operations in his Galilean ministry. It was a large city on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. *Holman New Testament Commentary*
- Capernaum seemed to be the city that Jesus worked out of

V2 Obviously a ministry like Christ had and the miracles he had performed a crowd was going to draw. So, this is what is happening here

- ~ In Mk 1:33 there were many gathered at the door then too to see Christ
- ~ Jesus is teaching and room is so full you can't even get in to through the door
- ~ The Holman study bible says he was speaking the message. The Greek word is Logos. This word logos was later used to represent Christian missionary preaching as we see in the book of Acts
- ~ What a great scene....the room is filled with people listening to Jesus teach the word

1 Jesus is preaching

- ~ Why was Jesus preaching?
- ~ Preaching was a means to communicate the mind of God
- ~ Preach (laleo) Something said, talk, utter
- ~ Jesus spoke the word
- ~ Preaching was his primary work (Mk 1:38)
- ~ To Jesus preaching the word trumped healing, performing miracles and casting out demons
- ~ In the local church preaching and teaching is the means God uses to mature his people (Eph 4)

He preached and taught

- Preach (Verb form in Greek)
 - Euangelizo (2097) Used of the good news concerning God's son as proclaimed in the gospel
 - Paul uses it 22 times
 - Used 55 times total in the New Testament
 - Kerusso (2784) To be a herald, to proclaim, to publish, to preach
 - Paul used it 19 times
 - Used 61 times total in the New Testament
- Teach (Verb form in Greek)
 - Didasko (1321) To give instruction. John 14:26; Rom 12:7
 - Paideuo (3811) To instruct and train

Teachings of Christ

A Special sermons

- Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), The Olivet Discourse (Matt 23-25), The Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

B Parables

- ~ The base content of Jesus' sermon was the OT - After the resurrection when Jesus was walking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus he expounded on Moses and the prophets

Jesus is forgiving

V3-4 four men bring in a paralytic man to the house. Because they can't get in they get an idea, "Let's remove the some of the roof and then we'll lower the man down into the house."

- ~ We can learn the value of bringing others to Christ by the example of the four friends
- ~ Kent Hughes says the four friends had a faith that was persistent, creative, and sacrificial
- ~ They believed that only Christ was the answer for their friend/family member
- ~ They unroofed the roof
- ~ They were breaking through – they were digging it out
- ~ think about this from a few angles
 - 1 The homeowner – what are you doing to my roof (possibly Peter)
 - 2 The audience – wow, that's kind of funny but I hope they don't try that on my roof
 - 3 The friends of the paralytic man – We have to do something to get our friend to Jesus
 - 4 Jesus - I see the faith and I'll forgive sins. Perhaps their faith brought a smile to the face of Jesus
 - 5 the scribes – No concern for the roof or the paralytic man but simply who does Jesus think he is?

V5 Jesus sees their faith

There's two considerations here

- 1 Jesus addressed his greater than need which is spiritual first before his physical need
 - Eternal life was more important than a healthy life

2 This man's physical ailment may have been a result of some sin

- It would seem from the text this man's paralytic condition was the result of sin
- This must include the paralytic man who because a person must have their own personal faith in JC
- Each person stands and falls before God individually

~ That Jesus saw their faith reveals that He can read the hearts of men (cf. v. 8). Their faith probably refers not simply to the four men but also to the paralytic. *Grace New Testament Commentary*

~ This man's greatest need was forgiveness of sins not healing

2 Jesus is forgiving

~ Man's greater need is for being rightly related to God than to receive something from God. For example, Israel needed fellowship with God more than God's deliverance (1 sam 5,6)

~ Jesus is forgiving - because Jesus is the Son of God he has the right to forgive sins

~ Only God can forgive sins – the religious leaders knew this. They had this right but didn't believe Jesus is God

~ Jesus as the Son of God is perfect and has the right to forgive sins

~ The basis for Jesus forgiving sins

- 1 He's God
- 2 He's perfect/sinless
- 3 He's the ultimate sacrifice and sin-bearer
- 4 His resurrection was vindication of his perfect sacrifice

~ So when the scribes question who Jesus is and what right he has to forgive sins he totally has the right

~ The scribes were offended with Jesus forgiving sins

~ Jesus has the right to forgive sins

~ Deal with the judicial forgiveness of sins – for salvation

~ Deal with the ongoing forgiveness of sins – for sanctification (1 Jn 1:9)

~ Eph 2 In whom we have forgiveness of sins through his blood

~ What is forgiveness? Asking someone to pardon us for our offence done to them. We do this to have them release us from the debt we created toward them

~ The greatest debt we need freed from is forgiveness of sins

~ Thinking about forgiveness

- 1 we hold grudges
- 2 we don't forget about how we've wronged others

The Scribes are Criticizing

V6,7 the criticism of the scribes (it's 3-fold)

The criticism of the scribes (it's 3-fold)

- 1 Why is Jesus saying these things?
- 2 He's blaspheming
- 3 Who can forgive sins but God alone

~ Luke's account tells us there were also Pharisees and doctors of the law present to listen critically to Jesus

~ The Pharisees criticized the forgiving and healing of the paralytic but the real paralytic in this situation was the Pharisees

~ The Pharisees never did anything to help anyone. Actually Jesus said they actually made things worse by loading people down with burdens

~ But these four men did something to help their paralyzed friends

~ Criticism never lends a hand but a judgement

~ Pharisees sat there and criticized while these four men went to great lengths to help their friend

~ The friends had faith in Christ whereas the Pharisees had no faith in Christ

The Pharisees are Criticizing

~ A critic never sees the good but focuses on their own opinion

~ Scribes, Pharisees are criticizing while the friends of the paralytic served, cared and helped

~ Are we criticizing or bringing people to Christ?

Jesus is discerning

V8 Jesus discerns their thoughts

~ We always do our best to make sure people don't know our secrets but more important than that the Lord discerns

~ Jesus sees the heart of man

1 He saw the heart of the paralyzed man and his friends

2 He saw the heart of the Pharisees because they said he wasn't qualified to forgive sins

V9 Jesus puts their thoughts right back on them

~ Jesus asks which is more important...to tell the man to take up your mat and walk or your sins are forgiven

~ Ps 139:1-6

V10 Jesus did this to let the scribes know that the Son of Man (Jesus) has power on earth to forgive sins

Jesus is discerning

~ Jesus discerned the intentions of the four men, the paralytic and the religious leaders

Jesus is healing

V11 Then in demonstrating his authority he told the paralytic man to get up

Jesus is healing

~ The paralytic man was healed

~ Jesus healed many people

~ This is another of Jesus' healings

~ The purpose of healings in the NT was to validate the message that was preached

~ Healings while magnificent should point to the God of the written word

~ Healings and miracles shouldn't have greater emphasis than the preached word of God

~ In Mark's gospel this is (Simon's mother-in-law, many of divers diseases, leper

Jesus dealt with the greater issue – the one under the hood – sin

We have a tendency to only deal the surface of the issue – when there's a deeper rooted issue

Jesus is glorified

V12 The man gets up

~ He picked up his mat and walked out in front of everyone

~ The people were astounded

~ Their astonishment led them to "glorify God"

~ They also said, "We've never seen anything like this before."

Jesus is Glorified

~ What was more important than this man's healing was this man's sin being forgiven

Jesus is glorified

~ The end result of the work of God is that Christ should be glorified

~ The glory of God should motivate all we do

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Conclusion

The end of the verse speaks of the people glorifying Christ

~ The end goal of all the purposes of God is that God is glorified

1 Jesus is Preaching

~ We should love the preaching & teaching of God's word for it is the means God uses to mature his people

2 Jesus is Forgiving

~ Forgiveness glorifies God

~ We need to come to Christ for forgiveness

~ We learn to forgive others for their offences toward us

3 Scribes are Criticizing

~ Criticism never glorifies Christ

~ Instead of criticizing we bring others to Christ – this will glorify Christ

4 Jesus is Discerning

~ Jesus discerned faith and criticism

~ Discernment comes from the Bible and listening to the Holy spirit

~ Discernment glorifies God

5 Jesus is healing

~ This healing glorified God

~ The question that comes to us out of this is can we glorify God if he doesn't heal

~ Because even in the non-healing God can still be glorified

~ Jn 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee

- All we do should point to the glory of God