

FPFWC Christian Development



Jesus and Calls in His Ministry

January 2021

Winter Quarter

January 16, 2021

Lesson #3 –Called In Authority

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Mark 2:1-12

Key Verse- Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?—Mark 2:9

ICE BREAKERS-

- 1. What connection is there between a person's faith and God's working in his or her life?*
- 2. What are some ways to guard against jealousy?*

LESSON BACKGROUND –

The Gospel of Mark is a book of action. After an introduction of only three verses, the record begins with “John did baptize ... and preach” (Mark 1:4). Jesus continued to be on the move (1:9, 12, 14). While the other three Gospels often slow down the action, Mark moves right along with his condensed style.

Mark 2:1–12, today's text, is parallel to quite similar accounts in Matthew 9:1–8 and Luke 5:17–26. Although the chronological order of events varies in the three synoptic Gospels (see Lesson Context for lesson 5), all three locate this scene in Capernaum during Jesus' initial ministry in Galilee.

According to the passage just prior, a man with leprosy had come to Jesus and pled with Him to be made “clean” (Mark 1:40–45; also Luke 5:12–15). Jesus healed the man but told him not to tell others about it. Jesus may not have wanted to ignite the popular but erroneous hope that a miracle-working Messiah had come to deliver the Jews from Roman oppression. But the man “began to publish it much ... insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, ... and they came to him from every quarter” (Mark 1:45). That shock wave continued into today's passage.

LESSON COMMENTARY –

2:1–2. Jesus returned to Capernaum, probably to Peter's home, but so many **were gathered together** it was impossible to enter. Jesus sat and spoke the Word of God to those who would listen.

2:3–7. Four men came carrying a paralyzed man on a pallet, but entrance was impossible. They climbed to the roof, dug through the thatch, and lowered their friend down, still on his pallet. As Jesus saw **their faith**, He said to the paralytic, **Son, your sins are forgiven**. Evidently the physical infirmity that brought about his paralysis was connected with sin. This man's sins were at that very moment permanently forgiven. The scribes, however, concluded Jesus' statement was

blasphemy because only God can forgive sin. If Jesus was speaking the truth, He would have to be God. Their logic is correct, but they failed to accept the possibility Jesus could be God. Yet Jesus knew what they were thinking.

2:8–12. His question exposed their thoughts. They were the sinful ones in this story, for they had come with the specific purpose of finding accusations to destroy Him. The discussion revolved around two statements, both easily stated. But it would be easier to say, **Your sins are forgiven**, because who could determine whether it had actually occurred. But if one says, **Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk**, and the person fails to move, the speaker is clearly an imposter. Therefore, Jesus told the paralytic to get up, pick up his pallet, and walk. If he remained prostrate, Jesus would be proven a fake, and neither statement would have validity. Such a blasphemer would be worthy of death. The paralytic responded **immediately**, obeying Jesus' command. The result was amazement and the people glorified God: **We have never seen anything like this**. Jesus' miraculous work was far beyond their comprehension, demonstrating His authority.

LESSON NUGGET – Jesus forgives our sins. Imagine a servant having such authority! The healing of the body is a great miracle, but it does not last. The forgiveness of sin is God's greatest miracle, for it lasts forever and accomplishes the greatest good. The Servant forgives us and pays the price for the miracle!

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, and The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary*