

JESUS FORGIVES & HEALS A PARALYSED MAN

MARK 2:1-12



Parents Notes

Sunday 22nd September, 2019

We are learning today: Our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sin

Summary

Four friends brought a man through many barriers to Jesus to be healed. When Jesus saw their faith he said to the man "Your sins are forgiven." This may have seemed an odd thing to say, considering it must have been obvious that the man had come to be healed physically. It can't be that Jesus is saying his disability is linked with his sin, since elsewhere he suggests that it doesn't work like that (John 9:3). Instead it seems like he is saying that being forgiven is a greater priority – as it is for all of us.



There were some teachers of the Law gathered there and they were furious – only God can forgive sins so either Jesus is lying or he is claiming to be God. Jesus knew what they were thinking. It's hard to prove someone has been forgiven for sins, there's no visible transformation – anyone could go around making these claims. So he then proved that he has the power on earth to forgive sins by telling the man to get up, pick up your mat and walk, which he did. This is one of the clearest instances of Jesus showing who he is – the Son of God with power over sin and sickness.

Today, we often get caught up thinking about our physical needs, but we are reminded here that our greatest need is to be right with God because it affects our life now and for eternity. Better to be physically weak in this life and to have a perfect body in eternity, than to have it all now for our short time on earth and not make it to heaven.

For home

When you pray, include a time of confession to show the priority of seeking God's forgiveness. You could try writing your sins down and then putting them through a shredder or in a bin to show how Jesus removes our sin completely.

Look for opportunities day to day to not only apologise to each other as a family when someone has done something wrong, but to turn that straight into a prayer saying sorry to God.

Who might be people today who would struggle to get to know Jesus or come to church like the man in today's story? How can we help welcome these people to our church?

Memory verse

'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.' (Mark 2:17)

