

Mark



Lesson 2-Messiah Heals, Calls, Teaches, and Reforms

Focus: Mark 2:1-28

1. Healing a paralyzed man (v.1-12)

- a. **People began to swarm around Jesus** when they heard about His miracle working power (**v.1-2**). These crowds were in a large way, the result of people not keeping their mouths quiet about the work of Jesus (Notice Mark 1:44, 45). **Christ took hold of the opportunity and preached the word of God (v.2)** unto them. Jesus was a “Bible-preacher” as we should be too (2 Timothy 4:2; The law of the Lord will convert our hearts—Psalm 19:7). Jesus wanted to give the words of life to every soul who came within his circle of influence. He was here “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
- b. (**v.3,4**) **Faith reaches out to Jesus**. It does not give up because of seeing some kind of roadblock. No, it moves forward with decided action looking for a way to get to Jesus—the one who can heal and save us.
- c. (**v.5-12**) **Jesus here gave us an important lesson. The greatest healing which is needed is the healing of our souls!** Our souls have been sickened with sin. It is the weight of sin and guilt upon the human race that brings so much suffering upon us. It is often the spiritual, mental, and moral disease that brings the most terrible burdens upon us—even more important than the physical healing in our spiritual healing. **Often times, our spiritual healing is connected with our physical condition.** A mind and heart which is burdened with guilt and sin brings disease and suffering upon the body. **Our spiritual and physical conditions are closely intertwined!** When your soul has the peace that comes from Jesus, your physical health is also given a chance at greater recovery. **Jesus says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6,7).** The Peace of God makes a huge difference in our soul and body. “A merry heart does good like a medicine, but a broken spirit dies the bones” (Proverbs 17:22). **JESUS IS THE GREAT HEALER!!! He knows what is truly plaguing the human soul!!!** To all the crowd standing around, the most obvious problem was this man’s physical suffering; but **to Jesus, who reads the hearts, the most obvious problem was this man’s spiritual sufferings.** (Jesus heals us BOTH physically and spiritually—and there is a definite connection between them. Our spiritual and physical beings are inseparably linked—each one may affect the other.)
- d. **Jesus demonstrated His power to heal the spiritual disease by reaching out to heal the physical disease which everyone could see.** The Pharisees and scribes questioned Him. It’s true that no man has the right to forgive the sins against God—but Jesus was NOT JUST SOME MAN!!—He was, and IS the Son of God!—God Himself in Human flesh (ref. John 1:1, 14).

2. Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him (v.13-17)

- a. (**v.13**) The crowds were following Jesus, wherever he was going!
- b. **Christ called Matthew-Levi from the common job of tax collecting, to take up the special work of winning souls for the kingdom of God** (a much higher and more long- lasting work—the effects of this work will last for eternity!). Matthew Levi received the call from Jesus positively and “followed him.”
- c. **It came to pass that Matthew had a large gathering at his house for dinner (v.15-17).** Jesus and his disciples were there. And also, many of Matthew’s old friends from work and elsewhere were called to be there. **There was a mixture in the audience—those who were serving and following God now faithfully, and those who were not—those who were open sinners were in the crowd.** To the Pharisees this seemed like a scandalous and dirty thing—something that could defile the faith of everyone! This would be true under some circumstances (you can see the principle given

in Proverbs 1:10, 15). God does call us to be separate from the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). A believer should never intermarry with someone who is an unbeliever—it is dangerous to our faith. We should not go onto the ground of sin or unite in such things. **HOWEVER, this matter was different. Jesus calls us to be the “Salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-15).** Salt must penetrate into something that is bland to make a change in flavor. Light must cross the path of darkness in order to dispel the darkness. **They were on safer grounds this time** (a believers house—not a bar or something). And their purpose was to help others to meet Jesus. **Christianity must come into contact with the world in order to make a true difference and change in the world.** A DOCTOR MUST APPROACH THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN ORDER TO BRING HEALING TO THEM!! HE CANNOT REFUSE TO SEE THEM IF HE WOULD HEAL THEM.

- d. **This is sometimes thought of as a Matthew-Levi gathering. It is a chance for soul saving—not soul-polluting.** Remember, that when we come to Jesus, we often have a circle of friends and family who we may give a saving influence to, and whom we may share Christ with.

3. Jesus illustrates a lesson through Cloth and Wine bottles (v.18-22)

- a. **(v.18-20)** Fasting means to abstain from food or some other item for a prescribed period of time, so as to have a spiritual discipline, to be spiritually focused; and, to conquer the appetite and lust of the flesh. This strengthens the spiritual nature and the power of the will, rather than the lust or desire of the flesh. **It is an important spiritual discipline. Jesus said that his disciples would fast!** But, during the time when Jesus was with them, they were not in need of focusing upon that point. (You don’t fast at a wedding festival—the time for fasting is later! There is a proper “time for every purpose under heaven” –Ecclesiastes 3:1). After Christ’s return to heaven, His disciples would spend their share of time fasting! **Jesus mentioned a second lesson here—Some things just don’t go together! (v.21,22). You’ve got to put the proper things together, at the proper or right time!** The lesson also taught here is that new spiritual truth needs to come to a converted or NEW heart! For us to receive and understand the lessons of God as we should, we must let Christ make our hearts NEW!! We cannot come to Jesus and quarrel with Him about religious matters. We must seek to know and to do His will humbly!

4. Jesus and His teaching about the Sabbath—Reforming a corrupted generation (v.23-28)

- a. **Jesus taught many lessons about the Sabbath.** In all four gospels Jesus teaches us about correct Sabbath observance by precept (teaching) and example. **Never once** did Jesus break the Sabbath. That would be sin. Jesus kept all of God’s commandments (John 15:10). Jesus “magnified the law and made it honorable” (Isaiah 42:21). He did not come to change it at all—not in the slightest bit (Matthew 5:17-19). **Jesus taught there were some necessary actions upon the Sabbath which were actually in harmony with the spirit of the Sabbath.** They were not a violation of the Sabbath rest law (Exodus 20:8-11). These things were within God’s allowance when there was such a need. **Jesus also taught, “the Sabbath was made for man”—a blessing to all! It should not be a burden. Christ additionally re-affirmed the fact that the Sabbath was made for all MAN-KIND; not just for the Jews or something;** it has existed from Creation (Genesis 2:1-3) and has always been blessed and made holy by God. The Bible has always taught this (Isaiah 56:6,7).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to experience Christ’s peace and forgiveness; seeking always to trust and live by His words? _____