

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ One Sick of the Palsy**

Last time (on teaching tour of Galilee): the Priorities of Jesus Christ

### **1. Prayer**

Prayer is for whose benefit, whose spiritual health?

The one praying

Do you want greater spiritual health?

Prayer Meeting at our house on Wed 7pm starting 9/30

### **2. Preach**

This time: Jesus returns from His teaching Tour and has encounter with a paralyzed man

We will be in the Gospels of Mark, Luke, and Matthew...starting in Mark 2

The purpose of this LMJC study: that we would know

- Jesus Christ, the God Who will be known
- The Truth

## **Mark 2:1-12**

Mark is our chronological marker

v1-2 Capernaum...no room...preached the Word:

After days...a Jewish way of saying ‘after a considerable interval of time’...

Jesus returns to Capernaum from His teaching tour of the cities in the Galilee...

during which the leper was healed – something only God could do

“Jesus is in the house”!

Peter’s house becomes the place to be, Jesus the magnet drawing an huge crowd

It’s a packed house, SRO, with a huge overflow

With an unwavering focus on His Priorities, Jesus preaches the Word of God to the people

v3-4 bringing one sick of the palsy...let down the bed:

The people are completely absorbed in the teaching of Jesus when all of a sudden,  
a major interruption

Among those that heard that "Jesus is in the house" is a paralyzed man and  
his 4 zealous friends

All 5 of them KNEW Jesus could heal the paralyzed man...  
they just needed to get to Him.

But there was no getting thru the packed crowd...  
access in a traditional way was impossible

Do they wait for the crowds to disperse?  
When would that be?!

Do they leave and come back at another time when Jesus is more accessible?  
When would that ever be?

No...these are not acceptable options  
So, where there is a will, there is a way

The 4 men, carting their friend on his bed, climb the outside stairs leading to the  
top of the flat roof of Peter's house.

Within minutes they have made a breach large enough to lower their immobilized  
friend right into the midst of the meeting

This sounds like vandalism, but we will find out to the contrary

Jesus stops His teaching...and a hush of expectation comes over the crowd  
What are they doing?!  
What will He say?!  
What will He do?!

v5 Son, thy sins are forgiven thee:

What did Jesus do and say?  
NOT what anyone was expecting!

Seeing their active faith, Jesus says..."Your sins are forgiven."  
Jesus healed the problem (sin), not the symptom (palsy)  
Have the man's symptoms changed? No  
Is he healed? Yes

Believers are healed (sin) but may still have the symptoms  
The symptoms are not indicative of a lack of faith or sin

But now trouble arises

v6-7 scribes...blasphemes:

Present in Peter's house are some scribes...  
teachers of the Law and "bookkeepers"

- teach books about God's Book but they don't teach God's Book
- investigating and recording what Jesus says and does, finding fault and taking notes

These "teachers of the Law" (misnomer) reason...within themselves  
They are thinking, not speaking (with contempt)

1. "Why does this man speak blasphemies?"
2. "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Who can forgive sin?

Only God...they are quite right  
God has retained that power for Himself because all sin is against Him,  
He is the party offended by sin

Gen 20:6      And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou  
didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld  
thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not  
to touch her. (Abimelech and Abraham's sister/wife)

Gen 39:9      how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against  
God? (Joseph and Potiphar's wife)

Leviticus      all the offerings

Num 14:18    The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving  
Ex 34:7       iniquity and transgression,

Ps 51:4       Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,

So for a mere man to say what Jesus Christ said, it is

- an insult to God
- speaking evil of God
- claiming to be God

v8-9 Jesus perceived in His spirit...Why reason ye:  
Jesus...heard their thoughts!  
Only God can hear the thoughts of men!

1 Chron 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts

Ps 44:21 Shall not God search this out? for he knows the secrets of the heart.

Is 66:18 For I *know* their works and their thoughts

Jer 17:9-10 the heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Jesus hears their thoughts...and confronts their unbelief

Note: All the scribes present were thinking the same thing,  
they were not discussing  
They were like-minded, in one accord (unanimous), in unity

We should seek unity, right!

After all, Ps 133:1

NOT at the expense of Truth!!!

NOT ecumenicalism (many truths, false unity and false peace)

Eph 4:11-13 unity

- of the faith
- of the knowledge of Jesus Christ

Jesus then reveals their thoughts...and they and all the people know He heard their thoughts

So He asks them a simple question: Which is easier to say:  
That which is seen or that which is unseen?

Both are equally easy for Him, but for man the seen is easier than the unseen

Which had Jesus said?

v10-11 ye may know that the Son of Man:

The Book of Ezekiel

- the prophet/priest Ezekiel is referred to as “the son of man” 93x by the Lord
- 64x the Lord say that “they/you will know that I am the Lord”

The Lord Who will be known

- takes on, as His favorite title of Himself, the Son of Man
  - second Adam come to bring new life to Adam’s paralyzed race
- says He has power on earth...to forgive sins
  - the Lord God (v7) is on earth!

To demonstrate that to the scribes and the people, He turns to the paralyzed, bed-ridden, and forgiven man and says

- Get up
- Take your bed and go home.

“I solved the problem...now I will also solve the symptom to prove Who I am.”

v12 immediately...amazed and glorified God:

And so the man did...immediately

The sea of people parted and ALL were not only earwitnesses but eyewitnesses of the power and authority of Jesus Christ...the fulfillment of Ps 41:1-4

Blessed *is* he that considers the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; *and* he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

Everybody was amazed!

Everybody glorified God...why Jesus did and said what He did and said  
(John 4:34)

Everybody exclaimed, “We have never seen anything like this before!”

## **Matthew 9:1-8**

v1 entered into a ship...own city:

Coming from Bethsaida, which was on the coast of the Sea of Galilee?

Coming to His

- home
- ministry HQ

v2 Son, be of good cheer:

Jesus not only knew the thoughts and the hearts of the scribes,

He knew the thoughts and hearts of the paralyzed man and his 4 friends:

Not only faith...but fear

Thus the tender and comforting greeting by the interrupted Jesus

(as opposed to the condemning greeting by the religious leadership...

a scowl of disapproval and annoyance in this breach of protocol)

v3-4 think ye evil:

From the perspective of the religious leaders, Who is evil?

From God's perspective, who is evil?

Who is blaspheming God?

v5-8 given such power unto men:

The people marveled that God had given such power (Divine) to men

(Jesus of Nazareth)

- to heal
- to forgive

So why did the religious leaders not stop "keeping book" and

start worshipping their God?

Why did not the people shout

"The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God!"?

(1 Kings 18:39)

## **Luke 5:17-26**

v17 Pharisees and doctors of the law...power of the Lord was present:  
Additional details by Dr. Luke

1. In addition to the scribes (doctors of the law), Pharisees were present in Peter's house
  - Jesus' popularity has "hockey stick"-ed...  
people are thronging to Him
  - So has the hostility toward Him by the Pharisees and scribes
    - they are thronging to Him as well
    - they have come from Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem
    - they will be ever-present with Him from now on
  - They are seated in Peter's house...
    - there was room enough for them, but not for the common folks
    - respecters of men gave them preferential treatment because of the power they had over everyday life
  - They are not followers, they are part of the following
    - unbelieving in Jesus' Person and authority, blinded by sin
    - they are "keeping book" to build a case against Jesus of Nazareth
    - futile because Matt 5:17-18, John 13:34-35, Rom 13:10b
2. Also present in Peter's house: the power of the Lord to heal them

Micah 3:8 But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.

Zech 4:6 Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts

Luke 4:14

v18-20 taken with a palsy...tiling...into the midst:  
Additional details by Dr. Luke

3. The paralyzed man was “taken” by it...came under the power of it
4. His friends were not to be deterred but sought a way in...  
a determined, persistent faith
5. tiled roof...within a few minutes they removed some roof tiles,  
that could as easily be returned to place (no vandalism)
6. they lowered their friend right in front of Jesus...calculated where to  
remove tiles and how many, having thought it all out
  - the problem – palsy/paralysis of their friend
  - the solution – get in front (literally) of Jesus
  - where Jesus was
  - how to get ‘er done

Jesus saw the depth of their faith...

- thought out and energetically acted upon
- more faith than He has seen thus far in His ministry

v21-23 Who is this:

Just as the religious leadership was powerless to heal a leper,  
they were powerless to forgive sin or heal a paralytic  
Only God can do those things

So Jesus answers their unspoken questions

“Think it through! (Like these 5 have!)  
He leads the Pharisees and scribes thru the right thinking of God

The miracle is the evidence of Jesus Christ’s Identity  
He proved the less difficult with the more difficult...only God could do both  
In forgiving the man’s sin, Jesus declared His Identity and authority  
He proved it by healing the man’s body  
Had He done things the other way around, there would have been  
evidence of His power but not His Identity and authority

His primary lesson: His Identity

The miracles are secondary, only to offer proof of His Identity  
He addressed the problem, and the symptom secondarily



v24-26 power upon earth...filled with fear...strange things:

Jesus has the power upon the earth: v17 – the power of the LORD to heal them

And what is the logical, rightful conclusion when the paralyzed man stood up and left?

Jesus Christ is LORD...He is God on earth

Because He has the authority to forgive sin and the power to heal a leper and a paralytic

Luke records the people's reaction:

- All were amazed
- All glorified God...including the forgiven/healed man
- All were filled with fear...were afraid
- All agreed they had seen strange things today!
  - extraordinary
  - not what they expected

The Pharisees and scribes were like Woody when Buzz Lightyear showed up

- displaced
- threatened
- “I had power”
- “I had respect”
- “All my friends are gone”

(Unlike Woody and Buzz, there was never harmony with them and Jesus)

Conclusion/Summary:

1. Who is Jesus Christ of the Bible and how do we get to know Him?
2. When does the Lord ever do what we expect?
3. What should our expectations be?
  - a. Strange things...extraordinary, supernatural, the unexpected
  - b. Eph 3:20

From now on in Jesus' Ministry:

- Controversy
- Contention
- Confrontation

The tensions that started when Jesus healed the leper on the Sabbath now escalate when He forgives the sins of the paralyzed man

The religious leaders reject Him, they reject His grace, power, authority...Identity

Their conclusion will be: Jesus of Nazareth must die

At the very center of it all – His Identity

Jesus never feared, avoided, or retreated from confrontation...  
unlike so many pastors and false teachers today

When the Word of God is NOT the Final Authority, strange things happen – strange fire

- Pastors hold a low view of the Bible, teaching strangely entertaining man-centered and ear-tickling things (leaven/sin brought into the church)
- Man becomes the judge of the Word of God, which is strange because the Word of God judges man
- Jesus' church compromises with the world...and strangely looks and sounds like the world instead of Him
- Jesus' church plays with demons – spiritual formation, psychology, contemplative prayer, yoga, COEXIST, ecumenicalism – which proclaim many truths and deny the One Truth
- Pastors are like the scribes, teaching books that are not the Bible or are books about the Bible, neither of which are alive and powerful like the Bible
- The Evangelical church embraces the attack on the image of God (homosexual marriage) – becoming strangely unholy instead of holy
- Jesus Christ's church proclaims a strange message about a god without wrath that brings man without sin into a kingdom without judgment by a christ without a cross
- The Body of Christ rejects “good hygiene” (sound doctrine) and strangely starts to smell like the world and loses the authority to speak the Truth that cleanses

Strange things are happening today!

The Evangelical Church is losing the battle and falling to deception

Because she is losing her grip on the weapons of our warfare (prayer, Word of God) for the pulling down of strange things (vain imaginations) that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God

Because there are too many spectators and very few warriors and ambassadors

But when the Word of God is your Final Authority, strange things DO happen!  
The power of God to heal is present...and strange things are seen!

- the sick are healed
- the blind see
- the mute speak
- the deaf hear
- the lame walk
- the dead rise again to life
  
- the angry and churlish are made gentle and meek
- the proud is made humble
  
- the demons flee
  
- hearers have their hearts pricked and they desperately say, “What shall we do?”
- people know the Identity of Jesus Christ, their lives are changed, their minds are transformed, and they are conformed into the image of the Son of God
  
- the Church is as Jesus Christ intended it – to be His witnesses and ambassadors, separate from the world while reaching out to those in a dying world

Is your Bible

- familiar and stale or forever new
- your Final Authority?
- your most valuable possession?
- an occasional accessory for your Sunday outfit?

Jesus Christ is waiting for His Bride to tear the roof off and to drop in front of Him those paralyzed by sin, because she KNOWS He can and will heal them

Acts 17:11