

Jesus and our Deepest Need

Mark 2.1-12

Where are you?

- Listening Crowd – hearing the truth and checking Him out
- Faithful Friend – bringing another to the Master
- Desperate Paralytic – offering nothing but hoping for anything
- Religious Observer – ready to pounce on unrighteousness

Why bring him?

- The needs are so great
 - You need a great God to deal with great needs – He saw “their faith”
 - All the work done (a LOT) was to get him to Jesus
- Needs that are seen sometimes cloud deeper needs
 - Jesus is in the business of addressing the deepest needs of our lives

Who is this?

- Pharisees: Right answers but wrong assumptions
 - So close to the King but so far from the Kingdom (v.7)
 - Their issue was in their hearts (v.6) – that’s where the Kingdom comes
- Jesus: the One who meets our deepest needs
 - Was their frustration on part of the friends and paralytic? Probably so
 - When God moves in ways that we don’t anticipate, it can be wonderful or frustrating

Why judge?

- Judgment over joy says something about you
 - You think you’re better than the person being forgiven
 - You think you’re more qualified to understand their spiritual situation
 - You think it’s because of you (in some way) that you’re in the position you’re in
 - How much did you have to do with your pulse? Your spiritual pulse?
- Judgment over joy says something about God
 - He’s merciful toward a certain kind of sin or sinner
 - He loves those who try hard, like me
 - His grace is enough to cover my kinds of sin...just not yours
- Joy is the purest result of forgiveness (Psalm 51.12)
 - To be clear: forgiveness is what we’re rejoicing in, not someone’s sin
 - For the all the rejoicing this week – it ought to pale in comparison

- If Jesus the Judge looks at someone and speaks over them, it ought to be good enough for us

Which is easier?

- The Creator can make right in a moment
 - But our greatest need isn't what we think it is – satisfaction, purpose, provision
- The Savior must suffer greatly
 - Driving in Chicago to MDW – long, difficult drive to get to where I need to go
 - It was easier for Him to heal than forgive, but Jesus is about our deepest need
 - He meets our deepest need by giving us Himself

Questions for Discussion

1. When you reread the story in Mark 2.1-12, which group of people do you identify with most easily? What makes you choose that group? Which group / person would most frustrate you? Why?
2. Think about your neighbors. What are their most pressing needs that you can identify right now? What deeper needs can you identify? How can the former cloud or overshadow the latter? How can meeting the “pressing needs” lead to dealing with the “deeper needs?” What are some examples of that? Why do you think Jesus worked in reverse order?
3. It's often thrown around in our culture that we shouldn't be judgmental. The Pharisees and Scribes in this story drew the ire of Jesus because they couldn't celebrate someone else's forgiveness. For you, what kind of person would be most difficult to celebrate them being forgiven by Jesus? Why? What is the difference between the issue here and the broader issue of “being judgmental” in culture?
4. Read Psalm 51. The context is David's repentance over his moral failure with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. What do you see in David's statements of repentance that stand out? What stands out in his requests / pleas? What do you see in the Psalm is the result or outcome?
5. Because we always want to turn our faces outward, what is the name of one person in your life right now who needs the forgiveness that Jesus purchased on the cross?