

Lighthouse Group: Jesus Heals the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

Scripture Reading

Read Mark 2:1-12 aloud.

Context

Jesus returns to Capernaum, where His popularity has grown significantly. While the crowds gather for miracles, Jesus remains focused on preaching the Word. This passage captures a pivotal moment where Jesus shifts the focus from a man's physical paralysis to his spiritual need for forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

1. The Crowd vs. The Friends

Question: In the narrative, the room is filled with people, but only four men act with the persistence required to reach Jesus. What are the common things today that act as "crowds" or obstacles, preventing people from getting to Jesus?

Dig Deeper: Think about your own walk with Christ—are there "crowds" in your life that are keeping you from sitting at His feet right now?

Notes:

2. The Priority of the Soul

Question: Jesus bypassed the request for physical healing to address the man's spiritual condition. Why might we find it easier to ask God to change our circumstances than to change our hearts?

Dig Deeper: If Jesus looked at your current prayer list, what would He say is your primary need versus what you *think* is your primary need?

Notes:

3. The Skeptics in the Room

Question: The scribes were technically correct—only God can forgive sins—yet they were spiritually blind. How can having "theologically correct" knowledge become a barrier to actually trusting or experiencing Jesus?

Dig Deeper: Is it possible to know a lot about the Bible but miss the transformation Jesus is trying to do in your life?

Notes:

4. True Friendship

Question: These four men did not just pray for their friend; they physically carried him, tore off a roof, and faced the crowd. What does this reveal about what biblical community should look like?

Dig Deeper: Who are the "paralytics" in your life right now? Who is God calling you to carry to Jesus?

Notes:

5. The Authority of the Son of Man

Question: Jesus refers to Himself as the "Son of Man" (Mark 2:10). Looking at this alongside His authority to forgive sins, what does this title communicate about how Jesus relates to our human suffering?

Dig Deeper: How does it change your perspective to know that the One who has the power to judge is also the One who knows exactly what it is to be human?

Notes:

6. The Danger of Amazement

Question: The text says the crowd was "amazed" and "glorified God." Can someone be amazed by what Jesus does without actually being a follower of Jesus? How do we avoid falling into this trap?

Dig Deeper: When was the last time you were amazed by Jesus, but failed to obey His call in your life?

Notes:

7. Healing and Transformation

Question: The man walked out carrying the bed that once carried him. If forgiveness is the primary miracle, what should "carrying your bed" look like in a believer's life?

Dig Deeper: What is one area of your life where you have experienced a clear "reversal" since knowing Christ?

Notes:

8. The Greatest Miracle

Question: The sermon suggests that the greatest miracle is not physical healing, but the forgiveness of sins. Why is it often difficult for us to rest in this truth, especially when we are suffering physically or emotionally?

Dig Deeper: Take a moment to articulate why your sins being forgiven is more valuable to you today than any other blessing you could ask for.

Notes:

Carry-It-Forward

What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?

Go Deeper (Optional)

- Read Psalm 103: Reflect on the psalmist's description of the Lord, who "forgives all your iniquity" and "heals all your diseases." How does this align with Jesus' actions in Mark 2?

- Read Colossians 1:13-14: Consider how Paul connects the kingdom of light to the "redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Meditate on what this means for your daily walk.

Access the Full Discussion

Guide.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D3pp6vypnr9W6TWZJH3MyseSH6D11oICrEKa4YiCjVY/edit?usp=drive_web).)*