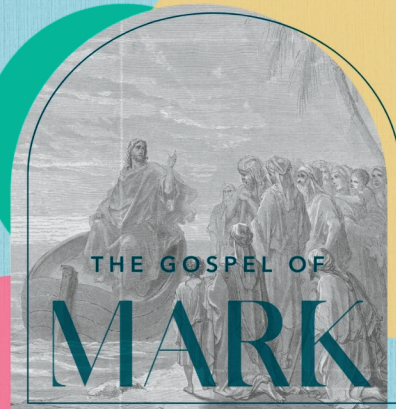


July 30, 2023

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 2:1-12



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



When He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. 4 Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. 5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."



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GROW IN THE WORD

- How do Jesus' words to the paralytic man challenge assumptions we have about what we need most from God? See Ephesians 2:1-10.

- How would you describe the friends that brought the paralytic man to Jesus? Imagine the scene in your mind and consider what each may have been thinking or feeling.

02. Scribes present for this event questioned Jesus' authority to grant forgiveness, reasoning that only God could do such a thing. Jesus responded to their doubt by posing a question that would reveal his authority and power. Jesus then granted physical healing to the paralytic; the crowd was amazed and glorified God as a result (v. 6-12).

- What was Jesus' point in verse 9? In other words, how did physically healing the paralytic relate to granting forgiveness to him? Reflect on verses 9-10.



GROW IN THE WORD

- In what ways do the faith and actions of the paralytic's friends inspire you to go out of your way to serve and support those in need?

- How can you imitate the friends' example of sacrificial love and determination in your own relationships?

UPCOMING EVENTS

ON MISSION: AUGUST 12

Evangelism Training | 9 am - 12 pm

Join us downtown for a morning of evangelism training and then go out and use what we've learned! Learn more and register for this event on our website or mobile app.



DISCOVERING WAYSIDE: AUGUST 13

10:45 am | Fellowship Hall

If you are interested in learning more about Wayside or how you can take the next step toward membership, we'd love to have you join us for this class! Lunch is provided with registration by August 8.

