

Jan 17, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

No matter who your boss is, you are really working for God

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

God sees and knows the work we do: Our faithfulness He will reward; With His authority in view, Let's do our best for Christ the Lord. —Hess

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest

(Prov 6:6-8 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 04, 2011)

Series: Call in the New Testament

UNIT: Jesus and Calls in His Ministry

NEXT WEEK

Called for the World's Belief (Mark 2:1-12)

Called in Authority Mark 2:1-12

Lesson Background and Introduction

Today's lesson reminds us of the spiritual components involved in genuine and integrated health and healing. Whether Jesus diagnosed this man's paralysis as being a result of sin, the man certainly couldn't be made whole without spiritual healing. No significant and permanent healing can occur apart from reconciliation with God. As we have seen, God alone forgives sins. And God alone is the source of healing. Jesus still has the power and authority to provide healing by bringing release from the crippling burden of sin. As God in the flesh, Jesus Christ was the incarnation of the profound statement recorded in Exodus 15:26: "I am the Lord, who heals you." This is not always seen in physical healing of maladies in this current life on earth; but it will absolutely be seen in the resurrection bodies that grow from the seed of our present bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-54). This story also reminds us of how much we need our fellow brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Although we probably won't need them to carry us on a stretcher to church or a prayer meeting, we do need to "carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). And there are times when we need to heed and practice the instruction of James 5:16: "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." As you reflect on Mark 2:1-12 and consider how it applies to your life, write a prayer that brings before the Lord your various needs. Lay out your physical, spiritual, emotional, relational, and material needs, and your questions about them. Call on the absolute authority of Jesus Christ to make you whole so that you can better glorify, honor, and serve Him.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

Deeper - Throughout the Gospels, the writers describe the multitudes clamoring after Jesus to heal the sick and cast out demons. However, God sent His Son and gave Him the ability to do much more. He also probed deeper, addressing people's spiritual and emotional needs as well.

Healing - Prior to this incident with the person with paralysis, Jesus had dramatically released a man possessed by a demon (Mark 1:28). From this point on, wherever He went a multitude immediately gathered. He attempted to privately travel to Capernaum and probably stayed in Peter's home. News of His arrival spread like wildfire throughout the area, and the people came in droves. The doorway, courtyard, and the front of the house were overrun with people. Some determined men, despite the mob, devised a creative way to get a paralytic man to Jesus. They climbed up on the roof, made a hole in it, and let the paralyzed man down on a pallet or mat.

Forgiving Sin - Jesus recognized their faith in their extraordinary efforts. With great compassion, He tenderly called the sick person "son." Then the Master further assured him, "Your sins are forgiven." He knew forgiveness of sins was a more profound need than physical healing. Immediately, the Jewish leaders became indignant. Forgiving sins? Only God can forgive sins.

Forgiveness and Healing - With His divine insight, Jesus knew what the religious leaders were thinking. He asked them, "Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?'" (Mark 2:9). Once again, Jesus made a bold claim: God has power to forgive sins, and now He was doing the same here on earth. Then, He turned to the paralytic on the mat and said to take up his bed and walk. Immediately the previously afflicted man followed Jesus' instructions. The people were amazed. Not only did this Man have healing powers, but He also could forgive sins.

Wholeness - When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes into that person's life to help the believer become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). It's the first step in the process of becoming whole. The old self is tainted by sin and in need of healing and restoration. Daily, the Holy Spirit does His transforming, renewing work, making the surrendering individual more like Christ, making them whole (2 Cor. 3:18)

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Authority to Heal the Sick (Mark 2:1-4)

Healing that was sought (1-2)

- Sought through turning from wicked ways (2 Chron 7:14)
- Sought because God heals physically (Matt 14:14)
- Sought because God heals spiritually (Isa 53:5)
- Sought because Jesus healings proves His Divinity (Matt 11:2-5)
- Sought because of healing from Jesus' wounds and stripes (1 Peter 2:24)
- Sought because of healing through the name of Jesus (Acts 4:7-10)

Healing achieved through help of others (3-4)

- Help of others through their faith (Luke 5:18-20)
- Help of others because of authority and care (Matt 8:6-8)
- Help of others through begging Jesus for healing (Mark 8:22)
- Help of others through bringing to Jesus (Acts 5:16)

Authority to Forgive Sins (Mark 2:5-9)

Forgiveness through faith (5)

- Faith because one must believe in God before he can pray for forgiveness (Heb 11:6)
- Faith because it is God's faithfulness that actually causes forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- Faith because of sincerity (Acts 14:9)
- Faith because of prayer offered for healing (James 5:15)

Forgiveness because Jesus is God (6-7)

- Jesus is God because He says so (John 10:30)
- Jesus is God because He is the Son of God (Matt 26:63-65)
- Jesus is God and therefore He can forgive (Ps 130:3-4)
- Jesus is God and therefore He can blot out sins (Isa 43:25)
- Jesus is God and therefore He is merciful and forgiving (Dan 9:9)
- Jesus is God and therefore He pardon and forgive (Mic 7:18)

Forgiveness regardless of doubt (8-9)

- Regardless of doubt because God helps in our unbelief (Mark 9:22-24)
- Regardless of doubt because it not our faith, but God's power (Matt 17:20)
- Regardless of doubt because Jesus promised it (Matt 21:22)
- Regardless of doubt because Jesus increases our faith (Luke 17:3-6)

Authority through Power (Mark 2:10-12)

Power through His Word (10-11)

- Powerful because it is useful to equip for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- Powerful because it is trustworthy and true (2 Peter 3:5-7)
- Powerful because it has the power of God in it (Rom 1:16-17)
- Powerful because it is the sword of the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:17)
- Powerful because it is living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)

Power that glorifies God (12)

- God's word glorifies through opening door (1 Cor 16:9)
- God's word glorifies through providing reliance on God (2 Cor 1:8-11)
- God's word glorifies through providing strength to proclaim it (2 Tim 4:17-18)
- God's word glorifies through providing transformation (1 Peter 1:23)
- God's word glorifies through providing righteousness from God (Rom 1:16-17)