

## Life Group Notes for the Week Beginning Sunday 09 January 2022



### Living The Jesus Way – A life of forgiveness

**Mark 2:1-12**

#### Opening

Can you recall any situation in which forgiving someone, or being forgiven, changed you or changed the situation?

#### The Passage

Read the passage.

We can look at this episode through the eyes of 4 different people.

- a) The friends who brought the paralysed man to Jesus
- b) The paralysed man himself
- c) The teachers of the law who were sitting there
- d) Ordinary folk who had come along to hear Jesus teach

What thoughts and feelings do you imagine you might have had if you were one of the above?

- Tom Wright suggests that verse 1 seems to indicate that Jesus was probably in His own home when the 4 friends arrived and made a hole in His roof. What difference do you think it makes if this was His own home?
- Why did Jesus' unexpected declaration of forgiveness cause surprise, even hostility? What sort of a risk was it?
- "This account in Mark 2:1-12 is a tiny version of the whole gospel" (Tom Wright). In what ways?
- Chapters 1 – 8 of Mark are mainly concerned with showing us who Jesus is. What aspects of the identity of Jesus are revealed in this incident?
- Jesus uses the title "Son of Man" in verse 10 to reveal more about His identity. What do you think this title means? The title comes from Daniel 7:13-14. What does this suggest about Jesus? What light does Mark 14:62 shed?
- Mark's Gospel records many instances of opposition and animosity towards Jesus. Why was Jesus so provocative?

## Issues

1. The fact that Jesus forgave the sins of the paralysed man, before He healed him, suggests to some people that the man was paralysed because of his sins. Was Jesus implying this?

Can sin paralyse us?

2. The Jews of Jesus' day believed that sickness was God's punishment for sin. An illness as severe as paralysis would indicate to them that this man must be a great sinner! How then would they interpret his healing?

What does Jesus say about the idea that sickness is God's punishment on sin? See John 9:3 and Luke 13:1-5.

Somebody once said, "Jesus' healing miracles are sacraments of forgiveness?" What do you think is meant by this?

3. "Forgiveness is powerful, but it is also very costly." In what ways is it costly?
4. We are told that it was the faith of the 4 friends that prompted Jesus to forgive and heal the paralysed man.

How likely is it that the paralysed man also had faith? What is the link between faith and forgiveness, and between faith and healing?

Is it possible for someone to receive forgiveness and healing based on someone else's faith?

What has this story to say to us about the power of intercessory prayer?

## Reflection

**"This story is a picture of prayer. Don't stay on the edge of the crowd. Dig through God's roof and find yourself in His presence."**

*Tom Wright, "Mark for Everyone".*