

Life of Christ- Authority to Forgive Sins; The Great Physician

Matthew 9:1-13; Mark 2:1-17; Luke 5:17-32

Introduction:

1. Review→ Jesus heals a leper right before this (we will look more at lepers in Luke 17).
2. Jesus returns to Capernaum after He had been preaching in Galilee. After His healing of the Leper people were flocking to Him from every direction (Mark 1:45).
3. The character and very nature of Jesus should draw people to Him and nothing should stop them.

Discussion:

I. The Pursuit (Mark 2:1-4)

- A. Jesus inside the Home (Most likely Peter and Andrew's home Mark 1:29) (1).
 1. Even where Jesus called "home" He could not find a peaceful moment (Mark 1:2).
 2. They most likely were coming for miracles but Jesus was preaching the word to them.
 3. Luke's account makes it seem that it was mostly Pharisee's and teachers of the law (scribes) and that they had come out from every town to hear Jesus.
- B. Jesus noticed their faith
 1. Palestinian peasant's house were small, one room structures with a flat roof. Access to the roof was by means of an outside stairway. The roof would have been made out of wood beams with thatch (dry vegetation) compacted earth in order to keep out the rain. They dug it out.
 2. Going through all this trouble to remove the roof, would have been something evident by all.
 3. Seeing (eidon)- as a noun meant Astrology- the quality of observed images as determined by atmospheric conditions. It was used as knowledge based upon evidence (1 Corinthians 15:6).
 4. Faith needs to be seen by evidence (Hebrews 11; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:3-9).

II. The Power (Mark 2:5-12)

- A. Jesus makes a huge step in His ministry, when He openly claims to have authority to forgive sins
 1. The Pharisee's reaction was understandable; they were not under the assumption that the Messiah would have been able to forgive sins, only God can do that (Job 14:4; Is 43:25).
 2. Jesus repeatedly demonstrates His superior wisdom and understanding over His detractors (Matthew 22:34-46; Luke 20:1-8).
 3. He did the miracle, which they could see, to demonstrate what He had done, in which they could not see. The man came for physical healing and received forgiveness, first (Priority).
 4. Jesus healing was instantaneous and complete. "**He spoke**" and it happened.
- B. Jesus is God in the Flesh
 1. This part of Christ's identity was the hardest to believe for the Jews (**Is. 43:25**; Jn 5:18; Mk 12:35-37; Jn 1:14).
 2. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins on earth, His claim to Deity in flesh (Col 2:9).
 3. Jesus was truly an amazing man (Mark 2:12; Matthew 9:8; 1 Tim. 2:5; John 7:46).

III. The Person (Mark 2:13-17)

- A. He ate with sinners/tax collectors
 1. Tax collectors were the worst of the worst to most of the Jews- they were traitors.
 2. "Sinners" were those who did not obey the Law of Moses or the "Hedge around the Torah."
 3. The Pharisee's forgot that they were sinners and also that God loves to save lost men
- B. He was the Great Physician
 1. Jesus came for those were sick not for the healthy. Meaning, Jesus came for those who realize they are sick; a physician cannot help those who do not think they are sick (John 9:38-41).
 2. He came to those who recognize their sin (Romans 7:24; Isaiah 6; 64:6; John 8:24; Rom 3:23).
 3. In contradiction to the Pharisaical thought, Jesus saved sinners as sinners and salvation was the Medicine. In the Pharisaical mindset, one would have to prove themselves to be worthy.

Conclusion:

1. Are we pursuing Jesus and willing to do anything to get into a relationship with Him.
2. Are we amazed at the power of Christ ability to forgive sins and preaching and teaching that to our neighbor?
3. Are we trying to become and show the person and character of Jesus in our everyday life?