

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 6

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word

Objective This lesson will show that the biggest problem every person faces is not their life circumstances, but the sin in their hearts.

Key Verses

Mark 2:1-12—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Matthew 4:19-20.

Cover the marker board with random drawings before the students arrive. Tell the students that there is a problem that the board is dirty, but then address the problem incorrectly (punish the markers for making a mess, clean only the edges, wash your hands instead of the board, etc.)

The only way to solve a problem is to address the real cause. All people have a problem, and Jesus came to address the real cause: sin in our hearts.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As we saw last week, Jesus tended to attract large crowds whenever he taught. In Mark 2, we find Jesus in a house teaching. The crowds following Him were so large that the house was packed. No one could get in or out. As Jesus taught, there were four men carrying their paralyzed friend on a mat. They knew that if they could only get their friend to Jesus, he could be healed. Since they could not enter the house through the door, they had to climb onto the roof. Once they got up there, they cut a hole in the roof and lowered their friend on his mat in front of Jesus. In response to the faith of these men, Jesus told the man, "Your sins are forgiven." As this happened, there were some scribes and Pharisees watching in disgust. "Who can forgive sins except for God?" they thought. Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked them, "Is it easier for me to tell someone their sins are forgiven or command this man to stand up and walk?" After all, anyone can tell someone their sins are forgiven without proving it, but if Jesus told the man to get up and walk, the people would quickly discover whether or not Jesus was telling the truth and able to do what He said He could. Then, as a rebuke to their unbelief, Jesus commanded the paralyzed man to get up, take his mat, and walk. Immediately, the man got up and went home praising God. All the crowds were amazed, and they cried out that they had never seen anything like this.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Jesus' response to this situation is shocking. These four men did everything they could to bring their paralyzed friend before Jesus. They were confident that if Jesus saw him, He would heal him. Jesus had healed others before, and you would expect this time to be no different. However, when this man was lying before Jesus, instead of healing Him, Jesus at first just told him that his sins were forgiven.

This reveals a profound truth about our human condition. If you had asked anyone what this man's greatest problem is, there would be no hesitation to answer that it was his paralysis. His physical affliction was one that kept him from being able to experience and enjoy life to the fullest. He probably thought that if he could just be healed of his paralysis, everything would be okay. However, when Jesus looked at him, He saw a much bigger issue. Jesus knew that this man's biggest problem was not his legs, but his sinful heart. This man didn't need healing. He needed his sins to be forgiven.

LOOK (Continued)

So it is with every one of us. We often look at our lives and see problems. We think, “If I only had more money, or was stronger, faster, or smarter, my life would be better.” Some of us may have even bigger issues like the man in the story. Perhaps you have a serious medical condition, a family that is falling apart, or a sick relative. It is easy to look at these problems as the biggest issues in our lives, the primary thing standing between us and happiness. However, the Bible tells us that our biggest problem is the sin in our hearts. It is a far bigger deal to be separated from God for eternity than it is to face any of these issues.

Luckily, in this story, we find not just the problem, but the solution. This man wasn’t even asking Jesus to take care of his sin problem, but Jesus forgave his sins anyway. He offers that same forgiveness to you and me today. 1 John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In forgiving us, He takes away the punishment for sin, allowing us to be with Him forever. In cleansing us, He removes the power of sin in our lives so that we can live for God. Jesus deals with our true problem and makes us new by forgiving our sins.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

As a class, memorize 1 John 1:9.

Offer the chance to have Jesus forgive their sins. Share the Gospel and give the students an opportunity to ask Jesus for this forgiveness.

Pray: Thank Jesus for coming to forgive our sins. Ask Him for forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness.

Parent Question: What is the biggest problem that every human faces?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Mark 2:1-12 by David Guzik

Controversy with Religious Leaders

A. The power of Jesus to forgive and to heal.

1. ([Mar 2:1-4](#)) Jesus teaches and is interrupted.

And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

a. **Again He entered Capernaum:** In [Mark 1](#), Jesus spent a busy day in **Capernaum**, and then went on a preaching tour all around the cities of Galilee. Now he returns to the fishing town right on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where Peter and his family lived.

b. **There was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door:** [Mark 1:28](#) says that after a dramatic rescue of a demon possessed man, *immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee*. At this point in His ministry, Jesus attracted crowds wherever He went.

c. **And He preached the word to them:** Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus **preached**, yet he still emphasizes the preaching ministry of Jesus as he did in [Mark 1:28](#) and [Mark 1:38-39](#).

i. "It is clear that he was avoiding the streets because they had been turned into a healing campaign. Everywhere he went people besieged him with requests for healing and the casting out of demons, so that he was unable to do what he had come to do primarily, which was to preach the Word." (Steadman)

d. **When they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was:** Because of the crowded room, the friends of the paralyzed man had to lower him down through the roof - certainly, an unusual interruption to a sermon!

i. Not too long ago, a pastor performed a wedding in New York and was interrupted when the church doors flew open, and a man hurried up the aisle, dragging an obviously pregnant woman. The man shouted, "Stop the wedding! You can't let this go on - look at what Manuel did to my sister!" The bride looked horrified, but the pastor calmly said, "There's no Manuel here." The man looked confused, and said "Oh no! Wrong wedding!" and left the church.

ii. **Uncovered the roof:** The roof was usually accessible by means of an outside stairway, and was made of thatch, dirt or tile laid over beams. It could be taken apart, and the friends of the paralyzed man could lower their friend down to Jesus.

iii. Morgan on **they uncovered the roof:** "Such a rendering is entirely misleading. The force of the word is that they broke up the roof of the house, tearing up the fabric, in order to lower the man down on his pallet into the presence of Jesus."

e. **So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying:** This proved the determination and faith of friends of the paralytic. They counted on Jesus healing their friend, because it sure would be a lot harder to bring him back up through the roof than lowering him down. They counted on him *walking* out of there!

i. The friends of the paralytic loved him, and it is demonstrated because they *brought him to Jesus*.

- Do you *have* friends like that in your life?

- Do you *act* like that kind of a friend towards others?

2. ([Mar 2:5-7](#)) Jesus forgives the sins of the paralyzed man.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

a. **When Jesus saw their faith:** Jesus looked up at the four men struggling with crude ropes tied to each corner of the stretcher with a paralytic on it. He looked at them and **saw their faith**.

i. Their faith could be *seen*. Their bold, determined action to bring their friend to Jesus proved they had real faith. Can it be said of us, that others can see our faith? There is something lacking in our faith if we keep it "all bottled up" and it can never be *seen*.

ii. In this account, the emphasis is on the faith of the *friends of the paralyzed man*. We need to have faith for more than our own needs, but also have faith that Jesus can and will meet the needs of others whom we bring to Him.

b. **Son, your sins are forgiven you:** We can imagine how the friends on the roof felt. They went to a lot of trouble to see their friend healed of his paralysis, and now the teacher only wants to *forgive his sins*! We might imagine them shouting, "No, he's paralyzed! We wanted him to walk, not to be forgiven!"

i. Yet, Jesus knew what the man's *real* need was, and what his *greatest* need was. What good was it if the man had two whole legs, and walked right into hell with them?

ii. Whenever there is a problem, almost always, *sin* is the real problem. Jesus got right to the problem.

iii. Jesus did not mean that the paralyzed man was especially sinful, or that his paralysis was directly caused by sin. Instead, He addressed the man's greatest need, and the common root of all pain and suffering - man's sinful condition.

iv. "Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results." (Wiersbe)

c. **Who can forgive sins but God alone?** The scribes use the right kind of logic. They correctly believe that only God can forgive sins, and they are even correct for examining this new teacher. Their error is in refusing to see who Jesus is: God the Son, who has the authority to forgive sins.

i. "The words suggest a gradual intensification of the fault-finding mood: first a general sense of surprise, then a feeling of impropriety, then a final advance to the thought: why, this is blasphemy!" (Bruce)

ii. "Again and again during the life of Christ the same dilemma was to re-appear. If he were not divine, then he

was indeed a blasphemer; there could be no third way out." (Cole)

iii. Jesus will not disagree with the principle that God alone can forgive sins. This is an important principle for all who struggle with the concept of self-forgiveness, in the sense of "I know God forgives me, but I just can't forgive myself." This principle teaches us that we were never intended to forgive ourselves, and we don't have the authority to do so. The real issue is believing and accepting the forgiveness of God, and allowing the reality of His great forgiveness to overwhelm our feelings about ourselves.

3. ([Mar 2:8-12](#)) Jesus demonstrates His authority to forgive sins and His power to heal disease.

But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"; He said to the paralytic, I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw *anything* like this!"

a. **Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus:** In a stunning moment, these scribes knew Jesus could read their evil hearts. This should have helped persuade them that Jesus really was God, having power to forgive sins.

i. It's hard to know if Jesus **perceived** this by His divine nature, or by His human nature with the spiritual gift of discernment or a word of wisdom. Trapp finds Scriptural basis for either approach: "That is, by his Deity, as [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [Hebrews 9:14](#). Or by his own spirit, as [1 Peter 3:8](#), not by inspiration, as [2 Peter 1:21](#)."

b. **Which is easier:** For men, both real forgiveness and the power to heal are impossible but for God, both are easy. It is a logical assumption that if Jesus has the power to heal the man's disease, He also has the authority to forgive his sins.

i. In a way, it was "harder" to heal the man than to forgive his sins, because forgiveness is invisible - no one could verify at that moment the man was forgiven before God. Yet it could be instantly verified whether or not the man could walk. Jesus is willing to put Himself to the test!

ii. Jesus also met the scribes on their own scholarly ground. "The Rabbis had a saying, 'There is no sick man healed of his sickness until all his sins have been forgiven him' ... to the Jews a sick man was a man with whom God was angry." (Barclay)

c. **The Son of Man:** Jesus often referred to Himself with this title. The idea is not of "perfect man" or "ideal man" or "common man," but a reference to [Daniel 7:13-14](#), where the coming King of Glory, coming to judge the world, has the title *Son of Man*.

i. Jesus used this title often because in His day, it was a Messianic title free from political and nationalistic sentiment. Jesus could have more commonly referred to Himself as "King" or "Christ" but those titles, in the ears of His audience, sounded like "the One Who Will Defeat the Romans."

ii. Robertson on **Son of Man:** "Christ's favourite designation of himself, a claim to be the Messiah in terms that could not easily be attacked."

d. **Immediately he arose:** Imagine the tension in this scene. The scribes are tense, because Jesus challenged them, and said He would demonstrate He was the Son of God. The paralyzed man was tense because he wondered if Jesus really would heal him. The crowd was tense because they sensed the tension of everyone else. The owner of the house is tense, because he wonders how much it will cost to repair his roof. And the four

friends are tense, because they are getting tired by now. The only one *not* tense was Jesus, because He had perfect peace when He said, "**arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.**" What happened? **Immediately he arose.** Jesus' *power* to heal and *authority* to forgive sins was **immediately** vindicated.

i. Imagine if Jesus *had failed*. His ministry would be shattered. The crowd slowly makes their way out of the house. The scribes smile and say, "He can't heal *or* forgive." The four men struggle to pull up the paralyzed man who looks more dejected and embarrassed than ever. The homeowner looks at his roof and thinks it was all for nothing.

ii. But Jesus did not, and could not fail, because all He needed to heal this man was *His word*. There is wonderful healing power in the word of Jesus, in the promises of Jesus, for those who *come to Him in faith*. This man came to Jesus in faith, even if it was the "borrowed" faith of his friends.

iii. **Took up his bed:** Why did the man go to the trouble of carrying his bed out of there? He had four friends who would gladly carry it, and it might have been easier to pull it back up out of the roof than carry it through the crowded room. But Jesus told him, **take up your bed and go to your house**, and that is exactly what the man did.

e. **All were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"** Jesus carried the day, and the people were **amazed** to see the power of God in action.

i. "The experts in the law were hoist with their own petard. On their own stated beliefs the man could not be cured, unless he was forgiven. He *was* cured, therefore he *was* forgiven. Therefore Jesus' claim to forgive sin *must* be true." (Barclay)