

Lessons From A Paralyzed Man

Introduction. Early in Jesus' ministry, in Mark 2:1-12, Jesus returned to Capernaum, a kind of base of operations for Him in the northern part of the country, to the house of Peter and Andrew. He healed a paralytic man there in an unusual circumstance, and this unusual circumstance can teach us a few extremely important lessons for this current, evil time.

I. ***People Are More Important Than Possessions (Mark 2:1-4)***

- A. The four friends wanted to help the paralyzed man so badly that they went to the effort to hoist him on the roof, where they opened a hole in it to lower him to Jesus.
- B. What a fantastic lesson (Ecclesiastes 5:10; Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:6-10). Money is not everything! An anonymous proverb says, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."
- C. What better help could we give than showing someone the gospel of Christ? In so doing, we act like our Lord and we fulfill His wishes (Matthew 9:36-38; John 4:34-35). We need moral courage to break away from what we are comfortable with and know that the Lord's word will not return void (Proverbs 11:30; Isaiah 55:10-11).

II. ***The Spiritual Is More Important Than The Physical (Mark 2:5-7)***

- A. Jesus forgave the paralytic before healing him. The scribes' basic premise was that for anyone but God to claim to forgive sin was blasphemy. Since for them Jesus was not God, He was blaspheming (John 10:31-33, 36).
- B. The Lord turned this situation into an opportunity to show that He was God (Isaiah 43:25). The man needed to walk again but he was about to learn that forgiveness is man's deepest need. We are so tempted to worry about the physical, but our spiritual condition should be our concern (1 Corinthians 3:1; Colossians 1:9).
- C. The point of an open mind, like having an open mouth, is to close it on something solid. Under the New Covenant, forgiveness comes through baptism (Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:11-13; Hebrews 10:22). Reorient yourself toward the spiritual through your obedience.

III. ***A Demonstration Is More Important Than A Profession (Mark 2:8-12)***

- A. Jesus backed up His words with the demonstration of His power. The ability to make the man walk demonstrated His control over the spiritual realm (Colossians 2:14-15).

- B. For us, showing people that we are God's children through a good influence is far better than simply saying it (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Hebrews 11:4; 1 Peter 2:11-12).
- C. Henry Ward Beecher said, "The world is to be cleaned by somebody, and you are not called of God if you are ashamed to scrub."

Conclusion. This is a critical text because you need to develop a biblical worldview. It is a tragedy that despite years of church-based experiences and hours of Bible-centered teaching, thousands of Christians have no idea how their faith should connect to their life's work. If you can learn the lessons from the paralyzed man, you can make that necessary step and reorient your life to a more fulfilling, abundant life in Jesus Christ.