

AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—July 31st, 2022

MARK 2:1–12

(ESV)

[1] And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. [2] And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. [3] And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. [4] And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. [5] And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." [6] Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, [7] "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" [8] And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? [9] Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" [10] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—[11] "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." [12] And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

INTRODUCTION

Our greatest problem in life is that we have sinned against an eternally holy God!

But our great problem has an even greater solution.

1 John 3:5—*You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

THE INQUISITIVE CROWD

Jesus gives the crowd what the crowd needs—his teaching.

And a crowd without the gospel is just that—a crowd. But when a group of people embrace the gospel together that is no longer a crowd, that is a church.

"...enthusiasm for Jesus and even proximity to him are not the same as faith..." —**James Edwards**, *The Gospel According to Mark*

THE FAITHFUL PARALYTIC AND HIS FAITHFUL FRIENDS

"Heartache forces us to embrace God out of desperate, urgent need. God is never closer than when your heart is aching." —**Joni Eareckson Tada**

Romans 5:3–4—[3] *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...*

"I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." —**Charles Spurgeon**, 19th Century Baptist preacher

You need to hear from Jesus, "Your sins are forgiven."

Physical healing expires when we die, but spiritual healing, through forgiveness of sins, guarantees us eternal life with Christ.

THE FAITHLESS SCRIBES

Scribes were teachers of the Mosaic Law who believed the promises of God to Israel would be fulfilled though obedience and not faith.

Matthew 5:20—*For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 23:23—*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.*

Scribes saw Jesus as a threat because grace is the enemy of legalism.

Blaspheme = irreverence towards God, make fun of God, make a joke out of God.

JESUS

Jesus' knowledge of secret thoughts is proof to everyone that he is God, because omniscience belongs to God alone.

Psalm 94:11

*the LORD—knows the thoughts of man,
that they are but a breath.*

Psalm 139:2

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.*

Only God is able to forgive sins committed against God.

Psalm 103:10–12

*[10] He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
[12] as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Come to Christ and he will heal your soul...he will forgive your sins.