For week of March 23 to March 29

reMARKable #2: Forgiveness and Healing

Getting Started

When faced with a choice between what you want most and what you want now, what do you usually choose? Give some examples.

Read the Text Together: Mark 2:1-12

Discussion

The first two verses of the reading indicate Jesus’ return to Capernaum attracted a large crowd of people. Does this mean Jesus was successful? Why or why not?

In v. 3 & 4, we learn about a small group that went out of their way to bring their friend to Jesus. What did they do? Why did they do it? What risk did they take? Do you think the man deserved this kind of devotion from them? What would cause you to do something like this for a friend?

What was Jesus’ response to their actions? According to v. 5, Jesus spoke to the paralyzed man based upon faith; but whose faith was it that led Jesus to speak? What lesson can we learn here about how our personal faith can impact the lives of others?

V. 6 & 7 record the negative response some in the room had to Jesus’ words. What do they say? Are they wrong? What do they not understand?

In v. 9, Jesus asks one of the most profound questions in all of scripture. What does He ask? What is profound about this question? Can anyone in the room do either of these things? Can Jesus? What does it take for Jesus to heal? What does it take for Him to forgive?

Upon the basis of what action in v. 10 & 11 does Jesus establish that He is able to forgive sins? Is this valid proof? Why or why not?

V. 12 records the people’s reaction to the events. If you had been in the room, what would you be feeling? What would you be thinking?

Wrap Up

Jesus promises the man forgiveness of sins. What will it take for Jesus to keep that promise?

What do you need most in your life right now: healing or forgiveness of sins?

Jesus’ offer of forgiveness to the paralyzed man was a promise based upon what He would do. Jesus’ offer of forgiveness to you is a reality based on a finished work. Have you accepted the forgiveness Jesus offers? You can walk out of this study tonight forgiven and right with God. Is that what you want now and what you want most? [close with a special prayer for forgiveness]