

Jesus Can Forgive Sins!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

October 7, 2018



They cut a hole in the roof!

Seeing their faith...

Here it was not only the faith of the man who was paralyzed, but the faith of his friends as well. Faith leads us to intercede for others.

"Your sins are forgiven."

The man wanted to be healed physically, but Jesus saw his spiritual need. The process of our healing may begin in places we might not expect.

It is important to note that Jesus is bypassing all of the Hebrew religious regulations regarding sin. He is ready and willing to forgive us immediately!

Who can forgive sins but God alone?

Yes, that's the point: Jesus is the Son of God, which means he carries all the authority of the Father.

We've never seen anything like this!

If you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you will begin to see things you've never seen before. There will be progress, real progress in your life!

Mark 2:1-12

2 When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. 3 They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

5 Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: 7 "Why does he speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?' 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he told the paralytic— 11 "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

12 Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Scripture *for Further Study*

The healing of the paralytic man is a story about the authority of Jesus Christ. Elsewhere Jesus spoke plainly about the scope of authority given to him by God. Read about this in **John 5:17-47**

Application *for Abundant Living*

L e a r n t o :

Forgiveness doesn't come naturally; we must learn to forgive. Jesus wants to teach us. He has given his life for the redemption of the entire world and wants us to serve as his representatives. We can get started right away. Here are a few simple ideals to ensure we practice forgiveness well.

Forgive as God has Forgiven You. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32) Here is the motive for forgiveness!

Forgive Freely or Easily. "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8)

Forgive Quickly. "Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison." (Matthew 5:25)

Initiate Forgiveness. Note in the story of the healing of the paralytic man that Jesus took the initiative to forgive. He did not wait for a request nor did he expect anything in return.

Clean the Slate Daily. In the Lord's Prayer, we pray for daily bread. We also pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." (Luke 11:4) This means that we must practice forgiveness daily.

Questions *for Group Discussion*

Are you quick or slow to ask God for forgiveness?

When was a time when you were forgiven?

How did it make you feel? What was the result?

How can we become agents of forgiveness in our culture?