

- I) V1-12 INTRO: And again He entered *Capernaum* after some days, and it was heard that He was in
  - a) Jesus has been teaching, healing, casting out demons, and preaching throughout Galilee
    - 1) By now, his fame is spreading and He is becoming extremely sought after
    - 2) NOTICE: V33, 37 and 45
    - 3) It has actually become difficult for Him to move about freely, so He withdrew for a short time
- II) V1-2 JESUS: Is once again in the city of Capernaum, and word has spread quickly that He is there
  - a) Jesus returns to Capernaum, and *after some days* it was heard that He was in the house
    - 1) KEY: He did not enter into the city unnoticed: People were now following him
- III) QUESTION: Now that there is a crowd gathered, what did Jesus do
  - a) V2 He *preached* the word to them because that is His purpose (1:38)
    - 1) KEY: This is the center of the ministry of Jesus Christ because it is how He rescued people
    - 2) Jn 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life
    - 3) Jn 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever *hears my word* and *believes him who sent me* has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.
- IV) FACT: His *crowds* needed to become His *converts*
  - a) He did not want people to simply come to hear Him speak or wonder at His works
    - 1) They needed to be saved
    - 2) Lu 19:10 the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- V) V3 THEN: *They came to Him* bringing a paralytic who was carried by *four men*
  - a) THIS MAN: Was totally incapable of moving about on his own
    - 1) AS THOSE WHO TRULY LOVED HIM: They brought him to the Lord
    - 2) Pr 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
- VI) APPLICATION: True friends are the ones who bring you to the Lord, not take you away from Him
  - a) Choose your friends wisely, because you ultimately influence one another for good or bad
    - 1) Those who love you will not violate your conscience
    - 2) Some whom you might think of as friends actually corrupt your morals
    - 3) 1 Co 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."
- VII) V4 AND: When they could not come near Him because of the crowd they *uncovered the roof*
  - a) FACT: They walked up the side stairs and began pulling the patio roof apart
    - 1) THE ROOF: Was flat, with beams running transversely: They were normally overlaid with brushwood and tree branches, and were covered with a thick blanket of mud, or clay mixed with straw
- VIII) AS THEY WORK FURIOUSLY: Falling debris created a billowy cloud, particles drifted in the dust
  - a) Sunlight begins to filter in, and the bottom of the mat appears
    - 1) SLOWLY AND GENTLY: They begin lowering the bed on which their friend was lying
- IX) V5 WHEN JESUS: *Saw their faith*, He said to the paralytic, Son your sins are forgiven you
  - a) Their faces were sweaty and their hands were dirty from breaking up the roof
    - 1) The first ones He looked at were the friends, who brought this man to Him

- I) APPLICATION: Faith actually produces activity
  - a) Genuine faith actually encourages effort: it was not easy bringing him to see Jesus
    - 1) His condition was one of hopeless paralysis: he could easily of been angered
    - 2) People do not always understand why you want them to come to Jesus (or church)
  
- II) ALSO: Genuine faith is often revealed through simple effort
  - a) It actually took physical labor to make it possible for him to see Jesus
    - 1) Jas 2:18 Someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith *by my works*
    - 2) This was faith in action as the 4 worked as 1 as a *team of ministers*
  
- III) V5 WHEN JESUS: *Saw their faith*, He said to the paralytic Son your sins are forgiven you
  - a) NOTICE: Jesus saw *their* faith *but spoke* to the paralyzed man
    - 1) This man had a *crippled soul*, which was worse than just being unable to walk
    - 2) Mt 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
  
- IV) KEY: Jesus was promising this sick man forgiveness of his *sins*
  - a) He needed forgiveness more than the ability to walk
    - 1) SO HE SAYS: Son *your sins* are forgiven (done away with, driven away) you.
  
- V) SIN: There are various words used in the bible that describe sin
  - a) Iniquity, transgressions, trespasses, unrighteousness, evil, all speak of expressions of sin
    - 1) SIN: In this passage is the Greek word *harmatia*, which speaks of missing the mark
  
- VI) WHEN WE SIN: We do so because it is natural for us to sin
  - a) This has been called original sin, in that we have received a sin nature from Adam
    - 1) Ro 5:12 Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned
    - 2) Ps 51:5 I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me
  
- VII) FACT: Original sin produces acts of sin (I sin because I am a sinner)
  - a) There are results to sin: I live a miserable life and end up lost for all of eternity
    - 1) That is, unless Jesus forgives me
    - 2) Ro 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
  
- VIII) HERE: Jesus has given a man what he really needed and was fervently praying for: forgiveness
  - a) Undoubtedly he had cried out for forgiveness, and Jesus is assuring him that he has been heard
    - 1) BEING FORGIVEN: Produces release from heaviness, and joy
    - 2) Ps 32:1-5 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

- IX) V6-7 AND: Some of the scribes were sitting there and *reasoning in their hearts* Why does this man
- a) KEY: They know that mere men do not forgive sins
- I) THEIR REASONING: Only God can forgive sins completely
- a) Ultimately, sin is against God and only He has the right to forgive it
    - 1) Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west so far has He removed our transgressions from us
    - 2) Is 43:25 I, even I, am He who *blots out your transgressions, for My own sake, and remembers your sins no more.*
- II) SINCE ONLY GOD CAN FORGIVE SINS: Jesus is sinning because He is claiming to be God
- a) This would be blasphemy, which in this case is claiming the attributes and rights of God Himself
    - 1) Jesus claims to forgive sins, so He is guilty of blasphemy, a capital crime
    - 2) Lev 24:16 He who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death
- III) V8 AND IMMEDIATELY: When Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus *within themselves*
- a) Jesus responds *to their thoughts*:
    - 1) Ps 44:21 For He knows the secrets of the heart
    - 2) Heb 4:13 *Nothing* in all creation is hidden from God's sight. *Everything is uncovered and laid bare* before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
- IV) V9 QUESTION: Which is easier? To say to the paralytic Your sins are forgiven you, or to say Arise
- a) OBVIOUSLY: Both are impossible without God
    - 1) The fact is: To *say* someone is forgiven is easier than to heal that person physically
    - 2) One is an act that is not necessarily visible, the other is obviously immediate and visible
- V) V10-11 BUT: That you may know that the Son of Man has power *on earth* to forgive sins
- a) KEY: Jesus forgives every manner of sin that occurs before you die
    - 1) 1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
    - 2) Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
- VI) HE GIVES THEM MAN A COMMAND: Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house
- a) The invisible forgiveness is demonstrated by the visible healing
    - 1) His faith responded with behavior: The crippled was made to walk through faith and obedience
    - 2) UNDOUBTEDLY: Joy flooded his soul and he rejoiced over what God had done
- VII) V12 IMMEDIATELY: He arose took up the bed and went out in the presence of them all
- a) Lu 5:25-26 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"
- VIII) NOTICE: Jesus gives an impossible command, yet there is a response of faith to act on it
- a) Tells the man with the withered hand (Mk 3:1, 5)
  - b) Tells Peter to walk on water (Mt 14)
  - c) Jn 5:8 Man at Bethesda: Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."
- IX) NOTICE THEIR REACTION: All were amazed and glorified God

- a) The miracle brought glory to God, and drew people to Him
  - 1) WHEN YOU ARE MADE TO WALK: People also will be drawn to Jesus