**JESUS FORGIVES AND CALLS SINNERS**

Mark 2:1-17 (Key Verses: 2:17)

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

1. How and where did Jesus serve the crowd (1-2)? Who came to Jesus, and why (3)? Think about how they got the man to Jesus (4). What can we learn here from them about faith and friendship (5a)?

Notes:

\*\*So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying: This proved the determination and faith of the friends of the paralytic man. They counted on Jesus healing their friend, because it would be a lot harder to bring him back up through the roof than lowering him down. They counted on him walking out of the room.

2. What surprising words did Jesus say to the paralytic (5)? What does this show about his love and care for the man? Who is Jesus that he could say this (1:1,11)?

Notes:

\*\*When Jesus saw their faith: Jesus looked up at the four men struggling with crude ropes tied to each corner of the stretcher with a paralytic on it. He looked at them and saw their faith. **Their faith could be seen**. Their bold, determined action to bring their friend to Jesus proved they had real faith.

\*\*Yet, **Jesus knew what the man’s real need was and what his greatest need was**. What good was it if the man had two whole legs and walked right into hell with them. Whenever there is a problem, almost always, sin is the real problem. Jesus got right to the problem.

\*\*Jesus did not mean that the paralyzed man was especially sinful or that his paralysis was directly caused by sin. Instead, He addressed the man’s greatest need and the common root of all pain and suffering — man’s sinful condition.

\*\*“Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.” (Wiersbe)

3. Who secretly objected to Jesus’ words, and why were they offended (6-7)? What did Jesus know and say (8-9)? Why did Jesus say this?

\*\*Which is easier: **For men, both real forgiveness and the power to heal are impossible, but for God, both are easy.** It is a logical assumption that if Jesus has the power to heal the man’s disease, He also has the authority to forgive his sins.

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4. What did Jesus want them to know (10)? What did Jesus say to the man (11)? What did the man do (12a)? How did the crowd respond (12b)? What does this prove about Jesus?

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5. Where did Jesus go and what did he do (13)? What did he say to Levi and how did Levi respond (14)? What did this invitation mean to Jesus and to Levi (1:17)?

6. Where did Jesus go next and what surprising thing did he do (15)? Why were these teachers of the law so critical of Jesus (16)? Read verse 17. Why did Jesus come (cf. 1:38)? How has Jesus forgiven and called you?