

**22S38 Mark 2:1-13 (Part 4)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 2:1-13 (Part 4) Paralytic healed and Jesus teaches along the seaside

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the new testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 2:1-13 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>When Jesus came back to Capernaum a few days later, it was heard that He was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer space, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And some people came, bringing to Him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and after digging an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralyzed man was lying. <sup>5</sup>And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup>But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking it over in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?" <sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were thinking that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you thinking about these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralyzed man, <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet, and go home." <sup>12</sup>And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!" <sup>13</sup>And He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.*

**Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

So before we get started. There is parallel story in Luke 5:17-26 and a very similar story in Matthew 9:1-18. This is a very interesting story. Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 2:1-2 (NAS) ) *<sup>1</sup>When Jesus came back to Capernaum a few days later, it was heard that He was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer space, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them.* So, this story begins with Jesus teaching in a house in Capernaum. Many believe this was Peter's house but I don't know where this idea comes from. I know many teaches have taught this but I don't know how they know this. Yes, Jesus was in Capernaum and yes Jesus had just healed Peter's mother-in-law in Capernaum. But we don't know if it was Peter house or if the house in these two stories was the same house. It could be but it does not have to be. I personally don't think we should teach our guess as a fact. I can imagine it to be Peter's house but there is no way anyone still living can say that for sure. Regardless of this. A large number of people had come to hear Jesus. The place was full.

Then, Mark 2:3-4 (NAS) *<sup>3</sup>And some people came, bringing to Him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and after digging an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralyzed man was lying.* This story has always bothered me. They made a whole in the roof to let him down. We don't know what the roof was like for sure but obviously there was a way to get on the roof. Many home at this time actually had stairs or steps leading to the roof, so they could use that space for laundry, dry grains, storage. So they got on the roof and made a whole. We don't know if the roof was mud or thatch or something else. It might even have had some sort of open and they only made it bigger to lower the man. We don't know but what is important is this man's four friends made a great effort to get him to Jesus.

Let's read on, Mark 2:5 (NAS), *<sup>5</sup>And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."* Jesus says son your sins are forgiven. Seeing the faith of the friends Jesus forgives the man's sins. Not your healed. This is important. Jesus addresses the inner person before he addresses the outer person.

Let's read on, Mark 2:6 (NAS). *<sup>6</sup>But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking it over in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>"Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?"* The scribes are a little upset. I can just imagine their heads whipping around when Jesus forgave sins. I'm sure they were like a man can't do that. Only God. Duh, Jesus is God, but they don't understand that yet.

Jesus knows every thought so of course he is going to address it directly in Mark 2:8-13 (NAS), *<sup>8</sup>Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were thinking that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you thinking about these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralyzed man, <sup>11</sup>"I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet, and go home."<sup>12</sup>And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were*

*glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"* <sup>13</sup>*And He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.* Jesus just knows. But then he shows. So you know, Jesus has authority, he heals the man. I think Jesus got their attention now huh. I'm sure the scribes were not convinced but I'm also sure many were. Then Jesus moves to a more open area near the seashore to teach and heal.

Let's review.

- 1) Friends? This paralyzed man had some very good friends. Faithful friends. And Jesus rewards their faith by not only healing the man outwardly but healing the man inwardly by forgiving his sins.
- 2) Scribes? Why were the scribes so upset. Well blasphemy. No mere man can forgive sins. Jesus was say He was equal with God. This was blasphemy but not really since Jesus is really God.
- 3) Easier? Easier to say your sins are forgiven or heal the man. Well this is tough. It is easier to say something. People say lots of things that aren't true. Healing someone is impossible unless you are God. So healing is apparently more difficult. But because Jesus was able to heal the man, showed He also had authority to forgive sins. This made Jesus God. Now the scribes are really mad.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this, Jesus is showing He is God. But the people don't get it. The scribes are mad, the people are amazed but not convinced. It's just like us. God does amazing things in our lives, we miss it. God's word tells us these amazing stories, and we miss it. If Jesus could do these things, we better pay attention. God is working around us and through us. Don't miss it.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.