

The Jesus We Never Knew
“Who Is This Jesus?”
Mark 2:1-12

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralytic man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:1-12

Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. What makes us people who would struggle up a roof and dig our way through it in order to bring someone to the source of healing? What would make us give up in the face of obstacles? (Both the crowd and the roof were real barriers to bringing the paralyzed man to Jesus.) Are there people in our lives that we need to carry/bring to Jesus? How are we going about to do this?
2. The scribe in us certainly doesn't want Jesus reminding us that we also have sins that need forgiving as well. What in us is like the teachers of the law, the skeptical observer, the judgmental intellectual who does not believe?
3. What in us is like the paralyzed man who needs to hear the word of forgiveness? Are we paralyzed by our sins? Are we crippled and disabled by the guilt that may be in our lives?
4. What attributes of God did Jesus show in this passage? Why did Jesus have the authority to heal and forgive sins? How did Jesus prove that He was able to forgive sins? How does Jesus' healing of the paralytic help to answer the question that's on the minds of the teachers of the law? Who is this Jesus? Who would you say that He was/is?
5. How is sin like illness and paralysis? How have you been paralyzed in life? What is it that paralyzes you? How has forgiving someone or being forgiven changed your life? Have you ever experienced the freeing power of God's forgiveness in your life? Are you still experiencing this today?
6. What kind of healing do you need in your life in order to make you whole (physically, emotionally, and spiritually)? Come before the Lord, pray to Him, surrender to Him, and allow Him to heal you in His own time and in His own ways.