

Your Sins Are Forgiven
 Saturday, November 15, 2014
 CCPC

Survey events of Mark 1...Growing and widespread popularity.

- Testimony of the Father (11)
- Public proclamation of the arrival of the Kingdom (King) (14)
- ENTER CAPERNAUM: Plundering of Satan's kingdom (24)
- Healing of Peter's mother-in-law...Peter prominent in Capernaum (see his house to this day), healing of leper, pushed to remote areas due to crowds...
- Now return to Capernaum...

God has invaded our space. The Super Competent has drawn close to the incompetent. Human pride must bow.

Ravi Zacharius writes:

“The noted atheistic philosopher Bertrand Russell was once asked, “If you meet God after you die, what will you say to Him to justify your unbelief?”

I will tell Him that He did not give me enough evidence,” Russell snapped.

Ravi then comments on Russell's response:

“The Scriptures categorically state that the problem with such people is not the absence of evidence; it is, rather, the *suppression* of it. The message of Jesus Christ shift the charge of insufficiency from the volume of evidence to the intent of one's will.”

The Pharisees had a moral problem with Jesus. They were interested only in protecting their own pride and status, and to do so, they had to discredit Jesus as a charlatan and a liar. But Jesus can take care of Himself. He is a force to be reckoned with.

Jesus was about to expose their moral rejection of God publicly in the following story. This account isn't just about history, it is about you and me. Jesus first questions all objectors concerning the intent of their wills then He goes straight to indisputable evidence.

Here Jesus wasn't out to win a debate with hardened religious types. He was out to save their souls! To do so, He had to shake people to their core. I pray even now that He will shake once again you and me to our very core. If I am a believer, may I once again encounter Jesus in His Majesty and feel the fear

of what I have missed. If you are not a believer, may you see your need of His Pardon this very hour.

Here we encounter a Jesus who demonstrates His **Absolute Authority**. Jesus **confronts human opinion with His own. He doesn't care what opinions we hold about sin, self and God.** He cares only to speak the truth and let the impact be felt by all who hear. **He has a right to do so.**

As I mentioned, Word was out about Jesus. His fame had quickly spread throughout the Land of Israel. People from Judea had travelled to see for themselves. **Judea** was around **75** miles away. **Galilee** was the entire **40** mile range of the Sea of Galilee. The gathering here included common people but also some very powerful movers and shakers. Religious leaders.

They had gathered out of curiosity, some from a growing posture of discomfort, and **the mood was going to explode.** Some were incensed and would charge "this man slanders God!" Others would erupt with praise.

Here we go...

Luke 5:17 On one of those days, as he was teaching, **Pharisees and teachers** of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal...

Mark 2:1-12 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a **paralytic** carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the **crowd**, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when **Jesus saw their faith**, he said to the paralytic, "**Son, your sins are forgiven.**" ⁶ Now some of the **scribes** were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts?" ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-- he said to the paralytic-- ¹¹ "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they **were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"**

A PACKED HOUSE

JESUS

A CROWD - INCLUDES PHARISEES AND SCRIBES: all five of the narrative accounts in Mk 2:1 – 3:6 deal with controversy surrounding Jesus. These historic details are given not to peak our interest in mere history but to inform the church and silence the critics.

THE FOUR FRIENDS WHO HAD FAITH...

DISRUPTION OF JESUS' PREACHING: A BROKEN AND GUILTY MAN

Jesus is right in the middle of His Sermon (how would you like to hear what He was proclaiming?...

These people were about to get the best possible sermon illustration of the Kingdom in word and deed...

- Look at the strong faith - HUZPAH - of this man's friends. They were going to tear up a house to get him there! How much passion do I feel about getting my friends to Jesus?
- How many of you would disrupt a packed house and such an important man to help a friend?
- Look at the homeowners concern: who is going to clean up this mess!
- Especially - Look at the perfect example of you and me. This man on the stretcher couldn't help himself, **it would only end up in embarrassment and humiliation (he didn't have anything to lose) if Jesus didn't act.**

Son, your sins are forgiven...

- Jesus knows this man's sinful guilt (even as He know yours and mine)
- Jesus also declares sins are removed from this man right now! Notice that Jesus said this BEFORE He had gone to the cross. Now there is not forgiveness without the cross. It was necessary.

Jesus didn't say, "Let's carry this needy man to the Temple, offer sacrifices for your sins and plead Ps 51 for God to possibly forgive you for your sins."

He didn't say "let's go to a priest and ask him to intercede for this man's sins so that perhaps God may have mercy as he humbles himself."

What did Jesus say????...

RABBIS: JUDGMENT DAY WAS FUTURE, THE DECLARATION OF OUR JUSTIFICATION OR CONDEMNATION WAS ALSO FUTURE.

- JESUS HERE DECLARES THAT THE FINAL VERDICT OF THE JUDGMENT DAY HAS BEEN RENDERED IN ADVANCE OF THAT JUDGMENT DAY.
- ETERNITY IS SHIFTED INTO TIME RIGHT HERE FOR THIS BROKEN SINNER!
- AND THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOU AND ME AS BELIEVERS IN HIM.

DEFINE AND ILLUSTRATE FORGIVENESS:

FORGIVE: ἀφίημι > **Apo** = away from & **hiemi** = to put into motion...to send a physical object away such as a person; send off, hurl, let go, forgive or pardon, cancel, release from guilt.

In their world **the broken people knew they were guilty** and had either **given up or were perpetually ashamed...**

- Sin is a moral debt
- Sin is hatred for God and rejection of His authority
- Sin is a crime
- Sin is dissing God
- Sin is ignoring Him

Who does this stuff?

- **Pharisees** had convinced themselves that they had no guilt, or at best they were doing a good job of managing their sin problem.
- **Modern man:** Today, people are secular or religious either deny guilt (no absolutes) or they excuse sin (God grades on a curve).
- **Everybody.**

RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT: WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

WHY DO YOU QUESTION THESE THINGS IN YOUR HEART?

BGT **Mark 2:8** καὶ εὐθὺς ἐπιγνοὺς (had knowledge) ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ πνεύματι αὐτοῦ **ὅτι οὕτως διαλογίζονται (Pres) ἐν ἑαυτοῖς λέγει αὐτοῖς· τί ταῦτα διαλογίσεσθε (Pres M I) ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν;**

Jesus looks into their hearts. How? As God, He sees the internal struggle in their hearts, the question He asks actually reveals what thought processes they were going through.

They were thinking “Who does He think He is?” He is either flippant or arrogant. Blasphemy (slander of God) is His problem. How does He know whether this man is forgiven? How does He prove that? Who can see into God’s mind? Who enters the courts of Heaven to know the verdict? It is yet future anyway!”

Jesus says the following based on exactly what these leaders were thinking. He exposes the thoughts openly. Now that had to be a surprise to them. What, is He also a mind-reader?

Jesus was not only God Himself, He was filled with the Holy Spirit working in and through Him:

Luke 3:22 and **the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove**; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 4:18 "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me** to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the **captives** and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at **liberty** those who are oppressed,

John 3:34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the **Spirit without measure**.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the **spirit of that person, which is in him?** So also no one comprehends the **thoughts of God except the Spirit of God**.

Jesus is in a league by Himself before these men who thought too much of themselves and too little of the Messiah.

JESUS: LET ME SHOW YOU

Remember these immediate context. His response is based on what they are thinking and saying...

His Logic: POWER OVER MORAL GUILT

- Absolute power over Physical order: Human body and Disability (seen)
- Absolute power over Relationship to God (spiritual, unseen order)

Jesus simply announces pardon of sins!

His Claim: Son of Man

This term is often misunderstood. Usually viewed as a description of the humility of Jesus. There is such a use in the OT and the NT. It does have a limited use of humanity. Term was used occasionally for Ezekiel 2:1.

It does say "like a son of man." There is a notion of humanity. After all, isn't Jesus fully God and fully man? Yes. Incarnation.

But far more is meant here. This isn't a mere reference to Jesus humiliation as a man. It is looking at a technical title straight out of Daniel. It was known to the rabbis. High order of drama...

Daniel 7:9-10 "As I looked, **thrones** were placed, and the **Ancient of Days** **took his seat**; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like

pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and **ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him**; the **court sat in judgment, and the books were opened....**

Daniel 7:13-15 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with **the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.**¹⁴ **And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away,** and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was **anxious**, and the visions of my head **alarmed** me.

This disturbed Daniel. Looks like a human being, but He is far greater than mere man.

- God the Father as Almighty God is portrayed in a **Courtroom** with **100 MILLION** angels
- **Books are opened in the courtroom (verdicts, indictments)**
- Comes on **clouds** which is symbol of divine authority (shekinah glory of God here)
- Approaches God's **throne**
- Receives forever Kingdom authority and rule over all humanity

Jesus is the only One who used this term. Always used with reference to Himself. Only other time was at the stoning of **Stephen**!

Under oath in the trial for His life we read the following:

Matthew 26:62-67 And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?"⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "**I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.**"⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, **from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.**"⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy."⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,

Revelation 1:12-17 **Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me,** and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands **one like a son of man**, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. **His eyes were like a flame of fire,**¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.¹⁷ When I saw him, **I fell at his feet as though dead.** But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last,

Now you see. This is the same Person who was in the house speaking to a paralytic.

If this doesn't move you, what will?

CS Lewis spoke on British Radio in 1942 concerning these words of Jesus:

...One part of the claim tends to slip past us unnoticed because we have heard it so often that we no longer see what it amounts to. I mean the claim to forgive sins: any sins. Now unless the speaker is God, this is really so preposterous as to be comic. **We can all understand how a man forgives offences against himself.** You tread on my toes and I forgive you, you steal my money and I forgive you. **But what should we make of a man, himself unrobbed and untrodden on, who announced that he forgave you for treading on other men's toes and stealing other men's money?** Asinine fatuity is the kindest description we should give of his conduct. Yet this is what Jesus did. He told people that their sins were forgiven, and never waited to consult all the other people whom their sins had undoubtedly injured. He unhesitatingly behaved as if **He was the party chiefly concerned, the person chiefly offended in all offences. This makes sense only if He really was the God whose laws are broken and whose love is wounded in every sin. In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any other character in history...**

ESV **Matthew 9:8** When the crowds saw it, they were **afraid**, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

BGT **Matthew 9:8** ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐφοβήθησαν καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

EPHOBATHASAN - ἐφοβήθησαν = to be in a state of fear, expressed at times by falling on one's face, extreme fear, dread, apprehensive, stand in awe

Mark 2:12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all **amazed** and **glorified** God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Mark 2:12 καὶ ἠγέρθη καὶ εὐθὺς ἄρας τὸν κράβαττον ἐξῆλθεν ἔμπροσθεν πάντων, ὥστε ἐξίστασθαι πάντα καὶ δοξάζειν τὸν θεὸν λέγοντας ὅτι οὕτως οὐδέποτε εἶδομεν.

EXISTASTHAI - ἐξίστασθαι PMInf = astounded, amazed beyond comprehension, astounded, at times means someone

who loses their mind, be insane, be out of one's senses, terror, trance, ecstasy, confuse

Imagine, we along with all in this crowd are standing in the presence of the One who can merely speak a Word that determines our eternal destiny. Who in their right mind would “fear, respect, become awestruck” by such a Person. This is the real Jesus.

Today, we still stand in the presence of the Person who has the power by mere spoken word to remove the verdict of eternal condemnation for our rebellion against God or He has the power to retain the charges and execute justice on you and me. He won't tolerate sin but He will forgive it. He is that powerful. Run to Him! Run now. Keep your eyes on Him.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Believer, do you still thank Him? Do you never let Him hear the last of it? In eternity, Jesus is called the “Lamb who was slain.” That means that even in Heaven, we will be continually reminded of such grace. Gone will be the guilt. But forever will be the praise that that guilt is gone.

If you **aren't a believer**, come today and embrace the One Who Alone can say to you what He said this broken man on a mat. “Your sins are forgiven.”

Where does He say that for you?

Romans 10:13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."