

Recap of 3/19/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 2:6-12)

1. In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus is demonstrating His authority to forgive sin in the healing of the paralytic. This was in effect making Himself equal to God. He was clearly demonstrating His deity as well as His compassion.
- "According to the religious leaders, sickness was a sign of God's displeasure, therefore only God could remove sin. Thus, in this section, Christ is claiming the prerogatives of God in forgiving sin and healing the sick." (Hullinger)
2. It is true that there is a connection between sin and sickness in that all suffering stems from man's separation from God (Genesis 3). But there is not always a one-to-one correlation between sin and disease as demonstrated in the Book of Job, the man born blind in John 9, and Jesus' statements in Luke 13:1-5.
3. Jesus is demonstrating that He had the authority to forgive sins and to heal not just physical illness but the sick soul as well.
- "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)
4. Jesus was opposed by the Scribes (Teachers of the Law) and the Pharisees. The Pharisees were separatists and legalists who started out with good intentions but "lost the heart of their religion." As someone has said: "They started out with zeal for the Word and its purity, but ended up rigid, imbalanced, and hypocritical." They became intolerant and petty, more interested in rules and regulations than in life. Those so close to the law of God—so missed its intent. The Scribes were a class of scholars, experts in the Law, the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). The Torah (Oral and Written) became devoid of spiritual meaning. The Law was set aside in favor of scribal interpretations as passages such as Mark 7:5ff demonstrate. It is the nature of legalism that when you make extra-biblical rules to live by and bring others under your rules, they become more important than God's Word.
5. The Scribes and Pharisees were angry because as they saw it God had punished this man because of sin, and only God could forgive sin, thus Jesus was claiming in Himself, God's prerogative. Their critical spirit closed their hearts and minds.
6. Jesus calls Himself "Son of Man," a title from Daniel 7:13,14 which had Messianic significance.
7. Jesus has authority, not only over sickness, demons, and leprosy, but also authority to forgive sin. He clearly demonstrated His deity.