

Spiritually Alive and Healthy (Mark 2:1-17)

One of the more encouraging things this last week was the astronaut who was able to finally return to earth. (This is what was so encouraging- The gospel message he presented in detail, including the miracle of the human body, the heart, the kidneys, dna and the galaxies he viewed from the vantage point and therefore trillions of stars and who, but God makes all this possible?)

The creator of all this should obviously draw a lot of attention!

But strangely enough, many don't understand why this is, **Jesus is truly God!**

In today's message, you will, and they hear Him say so.

Everything that God can do is way beyond our comprehension and so we are impressed when He works, but every miracle in creation is not nearly as significant as **when He makes us spiritually alive forever with Him!**

1. Only God can forgive sin- (After all, He is the One that we sinned against/ He is righteous and holy.)

Mark 2:1-5 (ESV)

¹And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

⁴And 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.

⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

- I don't know what it means "at home". (Peter's? Where He was dwelling at anyhow!)
- But it did not take long for the crowds to discover his return.
 - a.) That is ok, because **He was preaching the word to them.** (We really need to take advantage of opportunities to reach the lost. He was not on "alone time at home"!)
 - b.) I have heard of sneaking through the back door, window, but not the roof! (Crowds/friends of a paralytic who thought he needed healing.)
 - c.) What he and the friends exhibited was faith in who Jesus is! (While some didn't get it, obviously they did. **How? Jesus saw their faith.** (Friends to bring him, paralytic for salvation!) Important!
 - d.) **JV Magee**- asks where are the people of faith today to carry friend to Jesus?

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- It is what God reacts to us through. (For salvation, for how we serve and live with God.)

e.) First things first! (**Jesus forgives him of his sins!**)

Romans 4:3 (ESV)

³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

- Believed? Yes, knowing full well who God is and He is true to His Word, (Certainly not some huckster who is playing tricks.)
 - The astronaut that I spoke of, he knew was making his heart pump, his kidneys to coincide with it, his DNA to make him who he is, and the galaxies outside his window of the spacecraft! (Yes, these guys, Abraham, and the astronaut know who Jesus is!!) Me too!
 - If that was all there was in this story, that would be the best miracle. (Because his ultimate healing had arrived.) He would get a new body!
2. Some don't want to trust Jesus- (We see some with faith, then we see some who want to question. It is not intelligence, it is pride!) Astronaut is plenty intelligent, but not so proud that he could let God be His Lord!

Mark 2:6–12 (ESV)

⁶Now 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?”

⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”

⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed 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 say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

¹²And 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.) Scribes/ “questioned in their hearts”- lack of faith out of pride.

b.) They didn't see this miracle, they just heard Jesus' words. (And it **made them realize who Jesus was saying that He was.**)

- This is where faith comes into salvation. (The Spirit of God shows us, but do we question with our flesh, or by our spirit surrender?)

c.) Jesus knew the hearts of the scribes too!

- Son of Man- He is the supernatural God that had come to restore mankind to God! (He reaffirmed to them that He is who He says He is.)
- d.) If you were an onlooker, how would you answer the question of “which is easier, to forgive sin or to heal a paralytic?”
- Just to ask a question like this is incredible, while all of this occurs!
- e.) The forgiveness of sin is something that God and the person know, the healing would be something for all to see, so he heals the paralytic!
- If you have been healed from your sin, it should become obvious over some amount of time, btw.
- Which one amazed people? Which one makes the most difference? (Only God could do either one, **so why didn't everyone get saved right there!**) Amazed on outward/flesh)
- 3. Jesus is the doctor for the soul that sins- (Remember the “law of sin and death” Ez. 18:20?) The soul that sins shall die. (Physical- this life, spiritual – eternal existence.)

Mark 2:13–17 (ESV)

¹³He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them.

¹⁴And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

¹⁶And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹⁷And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- a.) Jesus was preaching the gospel of spiritual health/ salvation, and He was calling for discipleship. (They are intertwined, not separate!)
- b.) It doesn't take long for someone who knows they need Jesus to just follow. (Ponder)
- c.) He wasn't with those to hang out with sin, he was doing the work of ultimate healing, which is salvation.
- d.) When saved, we drop everything and follow Him, and that is where discipleship begins.
 - The self-righteous feel superior and of no need.
 - The ones who realize they need Jesus **obey, surrender and follow!**
 - How do you know that you are spiritually alive and healthy? **Made whole by Jesus, and you are following Him, making disciples.**