Jesus Heals the Paralytic

Mark 2:1-12

1. Intro
   1. Boxer, Tyson Fury: I give Him the GLORY, He gives me the VICTORY.
      1. While there are some theological flaws in this statement, there is a truth here as well
      2. God gets the glory, we have the responsibility to do the hard things required along the way to see a victory.
   2. Our faith always requires action.
   3. James speaks to this, Faith without works is dead.
   4. We have a story today about the power of God and the work of the saints.
   5. This sermon is about walking…walking by the power of God!
2. Text
   1. Mark 2:1-2:
      1. Jesus goes back to His headquarters for His earthly ministry
      2. This was Peter’s mother in laws house
      3. Jesus began retreating to this location due to the popularity He had gained after healing the leper
   2. Mark 2:3: 4 Friends are important
   3. Mark 2:4: Friends that make a way, do the hard things, because there is nothing more important than getting their friend to Jesus.
   4. Mark 2:5: Forgave sin based upon faith…The paralytic had faith, the friends had faith
   5. Mark 2:6-7: The unsaid thoughts of the scribes were pointing to the truth that would come from this encounter
   6. Mark 2:8-9: Jesus then speaks to the thoughts that were unspoken, and exposes the doubt, in a way that only He could do.
   7. Mark 2:10-11: Then He speaks to the paralytic and tells Him to get up.
      1. Rise, pick up your bed, go home…
      2. He had been forgiven of sin, and now he was healed
      3. He had his most desperate need healed before the secondary need
   8. Mark 2:12:The paralytic was no longer a paralytic
      1. He was now restored
      2. And He could walk!
      3. And people marveled
3. Points
   1. Sin can be forgiven
      1. By FAITH
      2. Holy God healing a paralytic is second in importance to Holy God forgiving sin.
      3. Very Important Truth! What do we learn about this truth from this story?
         1. Bring your friends to Jesus.
         2. Be the ‘faith’ they may be lacking in.
         3. Be the community that will not stop by minor inconveniences like crowds and roofs
         4. Be faithful to carry your corner all the way to the end on the mission
         5. Be engaged enough to know how to help your community.
         6. Why??? Sins can be forgiven and life restored!
   2. Truth doesn’t Change
      1. Only God can forgive sin!
      2. And, He did.
      3. And, He does.
      4. Let us never forget that sin was conquered at the cross
      5. Forgiveness of sin, is restorative and liberating:
         1. We are not forgiven of sin so we can choose a legalistic lifestyle of obedience.
         2. We are forgiven of sin so that we can serve God in purity, and freedom, not held back by that which was conquered!
      6. To continue to be held back by sin would be like:
         1. Our soldiers taking the beach at Normandy, and then staying on the beach and waiting until the German reinforcements come.
         2. To buy a car on credit, pay it off, and then continue to send money to the lending agency.
      7. Have you been forgiven?
         1. Then rise up and walk in forgiveness
         2. Allow the new reality to be the obvious reality.
   3. Forgiveness before Restoration
      1. Son, your sins are forgiven.
      2. The 4 men and the one on the mat had faith in Jesus
      3. Sometimes the one needing deliverance needs people of faith to carry the mat
         1. People need us to grab a corner…by faith
         2. Carry your friends to the Lord Jesus and be a person of obedient faith.
      4. Carry the mat for the friend that needs it.
      5. Truths to walk away with:
         1. Don’t allow your current circumstances to define you
         2. Don’t stop looking for the future blessing because of a current hardship
         3. Don’t miss the miraculous healing by only looking at the physical healing.
4. Close
   1. This story is powerful and a demonstration of the power of God because:
      1. Someone walked that could not walk
      2. Someone was forgiven of sin that was dead in sin
      3. Lives were changed, testimony expressed, people were amazed
   2. We now should WALK in this power
      1. We are warriors! Not worriers.
      2. We are alive today because of the power of God!