

Demonstrating that He is God

Mark 2:1-12

The life of Jesus is surrounded with miracles. Writer Bernard Ramm said: "At every step of His life, Jesus Christ confronts us with the supernatural. He was born by a supernatural birth; He was protected by supernatural ministrations of angels; He possessed supernatural knowledge; He could do supernatural things." Simply put, His entrance into the world was miraculous; His departure from the world was miraculous; and His life in the world was miraculous.

The miracles were the cause and the source of Jesus' incredible fame. No one could do what He was doing.

- Matthew 14:35-36 "And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were ill; and they began to entreat Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.
- Mark 1:32-34 "And when evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city had gathered at the door. And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was."
- Mark 3:10 "For he had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed about Him in order to touch Him."
- Mark 6:54-55 "And when they had come out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, and ran about that whole country and began to carry about on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was."
- Luke 5:15 "But the news about Him was spreading even further, and great multitudes were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses."
- Luke 6:17-18 "And He descended with them, and stood on a level place; and there was a great multitude of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured."
- Luke 12:1 "Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of the multitudes had gathered together that they were stepping on one another..."
- Matthew 14:21 "And there were about five thousand men who ate aside from women and children."

Our lesson today:

- Mark 2:2 "And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them."

These massive crowds around Jesus would not have looked like a church service, but rather the waiting room of an emergency room. You can imagine in those large crowds, people trying to push their way to the front so Jesus could see them. Crippled. Diseased. Blind. Demon possessed. People on cots. People on crutches. People being carried. Children. All begging, pleading, all wanting to be cured.

- Physical wellness seemed to be the reason why people gathered to Jesus.



The Crippled Lowered through the roof:

- ❑ The account of this miracle is found in Matthew, Mark and Luke
- ❑ There are actually two miracles in this story
 - the first is knowing what people were thinking
Mark 2:8; Matthew 9:4 "why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"
 - see also Luke 6:8; 11:17
 - the second is healing the crippled man

A. There are three great lessons here:

1. Jesus saw their faith (Mark 2:5)

No words are spoken. Their actions demonstrated faith. They were not going to give up. They believed Jesus could help their friend. They were persistent.

2. Jesus forgives (Mark 2:5)

- He does this BEFORE He heals the cripple. He does this without any conversation.
- they came for physical healing, but Jesus grants spiritual healing. The most important.
- this creates a big dilemma for the Jews (Mark 2:7)

It is true that only God can forgive:

Jesus was revealing that He is God.

- Nicodemus saw Jesus as a "teacher from God" - but not God
- The rich young ruler didn't understand who Jesus was (Mt 19:16-17)
- The multitudes had different impressions who Jesus was (Mt 16:13-14)

If this was not true, then this is a blasphemous statement, worthy of death.

The Jewish leadership had not come to terms with Jesus being the Messiah. That was still a far stretch from seeing Him as God on earth.

3. Jesus asks a question (Mk 2:9)

- notice Jesus does not say "which is easier to do".
- if that was the question the answer would be healing. Forgiveness involves the cross and suffering.
- What Jesus said was, "Which is easier to SAY?"
To say, "take up your pallet and walk" - would require proof. DO IT. SHOW ME.
To say, "your sins are forgiven" - there is no way to prove that. How would the crowd know?
It is EASIER to SAY you are forgiven than it is to SAY get up and walk.

Mark 2:10-11

"But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.'"

- This miracle demonstrated that Jesus was God and He had the right and the authority to forgive.
- This is the purpose of miracles (John 20:30-31; Acts 2:22)

The text ends with three great principles about miracles (Mark 2:12)

1. The man got up and immediately carried the pallet out
2. The crowd was amazed. "We have never seen anything like this."
3. The crowd glorified God