

Plan A for Your World

Serve Sunday

Mark 2:1-12

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Jason Jahn / Aug. 21, 2022

Mark 2:1 “And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home.”

Jesus returns to a very different ministry than He left. The healing of the leper (Mark 1:40-45) changed His public profile.

I. The True Friends Act with Urgency

Mark 2:2-4 “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.”

These friends knew that this man must have an encounter with Jesus. They were willing to innovate to make it happen.

They used their time, talents, and physical strength to assure their friend would meet Jesus.

II. Jesus Corrects Bad Thinking and Refocuses His Followers

Mark 2:5 “And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

Jesus is solely focused on the man’s spiritual condition while everyone else is distracted by his physical condition.

In forgiving this man’s sins, Jesus confronts a widely and wrongly held theological belief. Healing and forgiveness are inseparable, but not in a cause and effect relationship.

Our greatest need, and that of those in our relational world, is to be forgiven and reconciled back to a right relationship with God.

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The church (ekklesia) is God’s Plan A for the world, and there is no Plan B. We have been entrusted with the “ministry of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

In forgiving this man’s sins, Jesus also picks a fight with the religious leaders.

III. The Blind Religious Leaders Refuse to See

Mark 2:6-8 “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?’”

The religious leaders are not there to learn from Jesus, but instead are trying to make sense out of Him through their already determined worldviews.

God will not be made smaller to fit into any set of beliefs or rituals. He will not be recreated in the image of our orthodoxy. Instead, we must conform to His revealed Truth.

So often, we get caught up in our own way of thinking that we miss God’s work amongst us. “The message of Jesus has never been ‘good news’ to proud or powerful people.” (Pastor Brad Bigney, *The Mission and Mercy of Our Savior*, May 22, 2022)

Mark 2:9-12 “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!’”