

Forgiveness

Jesus' Power to Forgive - The Paralysed Man

Foundation

Bible passage : Mark 2.1-12

This is a well-known incident in which a paralysed man is healed. Although there are several sidelines, such as Jesus' compassion and the faith of the man's friends, Mark draws our attention to the fact that Jesus has power to forgive sins, a power that belongs to God alone.

Mark's brief description of the crowd pressing into the house, the way the friends could not get near and how they eventually managed to get the man on the stretcher in front of Jesus paints a fascinating picture of the scene.

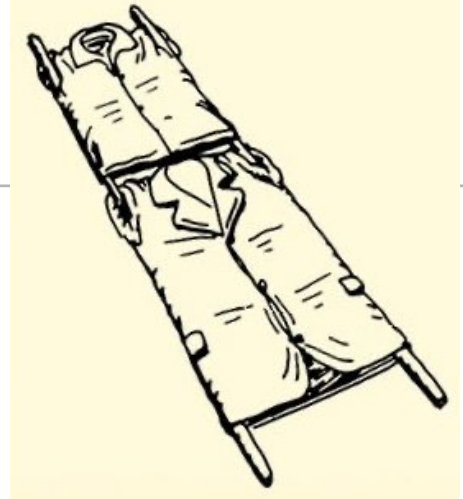
Even this early in His public ministry Jesus had done some amazing miracles, and the news had got around which is why the crowds and the stretcher bearing friends are there. Some presumably were eagerly anticipating witnessing a miracle, others were presumably sceptical and hard to convince. But what Jesus did in telling the man that his sins were forgiven must have shocked people. For the friends peering through the hole in the roof it can't have been what they were hoping for but some sitting around, particularly the Scribes, who were religious teachers, it seemed to be blasphemy. Their

"the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"

The Son of Man

Jesus regularly used the name "The Son of Man" to speak about himself. This seems partly to keep off balance some who were trying to find reason oppose him but also so that people would not jump to conclusions about who He is rather than listen and learn.

How to make a stretcher from two poles and two jackets.



rhetorical question shows that they know that only God can forgive sins. But here was a mere man, or so they thought, claiming to do what God alone could do.

Many of the miracles of Jesus are done in such a way that they enable Jesus to teach and that was what Jesus did in this instance. His question in verse 9 was straightforward. We can

say someone's sins are forgiven but with no way of really telling if it is true. But to tell a paralytic to get up and walk if he is not healed immediately

betrays the lie. But Jesus then told the man to get up, and he did, and so proving that Jesus has power not only to heal but also to forgive.

The implication of this ought to be obvious and yet from Mark's gospel it seems that many did not grasp it. The religious leaders like the Scribes were gradually coming to think that Jesus was a fraud and a blasphemer. The disciples thought Jesus was genuine but still seem to have struggled to see the truth - Jesus has a power that belongs to God alone - He is more than just a man.



Jesus showed that He has power to forgive sins, a power that belongs to God alone.