

Into the Life of Jesus

A study in the gospel of Mark

study #6

Review of last week: Mark 1:40-45

This past week we discussed Jesus' healing of the leper. With this act Jesus showed his ability to **make the unclean clean**. This was a sign that the new covenant had begun. In Christ we are cleansed of our sins and can approach the throne of God freely.

- Where did this text and/or teaching speak to you and your life with God?
- Was there anything that challenged you, encouraged you, or left you with questions?

This week: Entering into Mark 2:1-13

If possible, read the text aloud from a few different versions. The YouVersion Bible app has countless versions. Or read the passage at a few different paces. The goal is **to notice what we might not normally notice**.

→ So, word had gotten out that Jesus was back in Capernaum. The crowds poured in to see and hear Jesus. When the four friends lowered the paralytic into the room Jesus commended them for their faith.

- Would you call this an example of faith in action or of sheer desperation? How might these both play a part? Can you think of an example in your own life?
- Why does Jesus say to the paralytic that his sins are forgiven? (isn't Jesus somewhat missing the obvious?)
- The Pharisees, who have a front row seat to this event, likely have their breath taken away at the nerve of his statement.
 - What do you think they had expected Jesus to say or do?
- What do you think Jesus is getting at when he asks them which is easier, forgiveness of sins or a healing of a physical ailment? Which do you think is easier to say?

Implications and Applications

As you think about the layers of messages in this passage: the story of gutsy friendship, Jesus's revelation of the new covenant, the unseen awareness of Jesus, consider the implications for you:

- What would motivate someone or a group of friends to do something like this for a friend?
- While caring for the man's physical brokenness, Jesus' addressed his deepest need. How do we help one another stay alert to the deepest needs of our heart and lives, while not minimizing the pain or struggle associated with more surface issues?
- How can we show a lost and dying world God's good purposes for His creation?

Pray: for the king of faith and love that would pry open a roof for others
– as individuals and a church...