

the gospel Jesus' good news for all

noun | Greek εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion)

On Sunday, Pastor John led us through the passage where Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man. In this week's lesson we'll be exploring the significance of forgiveness.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION: Mark 2.1-12

1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Notes:

- The people of Jesus' day thought people became paralyzed either due to their own sin or that of their parents. This paralyzed man, then, would likely have been an outcast in his society and looked down upon by others. In this way, he is in a similar situation as the leper we studied last week. This context informs why Jesus might have chosen to forgive him of his sins first and then to heal him.
- Mark's focus is more on the four men than the paralyzed man himself, as the text reads it was the men who brought the paralyzed man and Jesus was moved by "their faith" (v. 5).

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What would it have meant to be paralyzed?
- Why might these men bring the paralyzed man to Jesus?
- What was the role of the paralyzed man in all this?
- What was it that struck Jesus and led him to forgive and heal the paralyzed man?

- Which is easier: to forgive the man of his sins or to heal him?
- What is the significance of Jesus forgiving the man?
- What is the significance of Jesus healing the man?

Introduction Question: Has there ever been a time where you felt paralyzed (whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually)?

Reflection Question: What is Jesus' good news for those who are paralyzed today? What about for those who are sinners? Who around us needs to receive such good news?

Small Groups: Break into groups of 3-4 to share about the reflection question and to pray for each other to both receive Jesus' good news and to help those around us experience it as well. Encourage folks to keep praying for and supporting each other this week as we put this passage into practice.

MARK 2.1-12 – Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, ¹¹“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”