

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S6E12

A Dirty Mat And A Clean Heart - (Mark 2:1-12)

Description – Join us today as we examine one of the clearest examples in scripture where Jesus demonstrated that He was God. He just didn't say it the way we as 21st Century westerners think.

Link to show notes for the leper episode from Mark 1:39-45. (S4E16)

https://rock.longhollow.com/Content/S4E16_The_Leper_Scholar_-_Mark_1_39-42.pdf

Mark 2:1-5

When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. ³ They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

Jesus is teaching in Capernaum, most likely at Peter's house, or maybe Peter's mother in law's house, whom he had previously healed.

Link to shownotes on the observation / interrogation phase of Jesus's ministry: (S4E15)

https://rock.longhollow.com/Content/S4E15_The_Observation_Phase_Of_Jesus%E2%80%999_Ministry_-_Matthew_3_7,_Luke_5.pdf

R Kent Hughes gives us some insight on the roof. There would have been crosstimbbers supporting reeds and smaller branches, which then would have had up to a foot of compacted dirt on the roof.

These men would have been digging through and cutting through a thick roof. This wasn't an easy task to make a hole big enough to lower their friend through.

Mark 2:5-8

⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: ⁷ "Why does he speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"

This is again the observation phase, because they're not calling it out; but they're thinking it in their hearts.

James 5:14-16

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? He should call for the elders of the church, and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

James is saying that there are some sins that lead to sickness, but we know not all sin causes sickness or infirmity. John 9 being the classic example, when the disciples asked Jesus who sinned so that this man was born blind, him or his parents? Jesus says neither. He's blind to be a platform of God's glory.

1 Corinthians 11 also mentions sickness in relation to sinning and the way they were taking the Lord's Supper.

Jesus is showing us something major in this encounter:

1. Jesus demonstrates his Deity by calling out exactly what they're thinking. Because they knew that only God knew their hearts and minds.
 - a. 1 Samuel 16:7
⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the LORD sees, for humans see what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart."
 - b. 1 Kings 8:39
may you hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and may you forgive, act, and give to everyone according to all their ways, since you know each heart, for you alone know every human heart,
 - c. Jeremiah 17:10
I, the LORD, examine the mind, I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve.

Mark 2:8-12

⁸ Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?" ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he told the paralytic— ¹¹ "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home." ¹² Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

According to Leviticus, Blasphemy is a capital offense. To claim to be God was blasphemous. Their theology didn't even hold to a Messiah who would forgive sins. Their messiah would be a healer and a redeemer and a warrior who would deliver the people from oppression of their enemies, but still only God could forgive sins.

Why is God the only one who can forgive sins? Because he's the one you've sinned against, he's the offended party.

Psalm 51:4

⁴Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight. So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge.

David knows here that while he has sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, ultimately that sin is against God.

So to demonstrate to the people that Jesus is God and has authority to forgive sins; he's going to heal this man physically.

Jesus is saying it without saying it that He is God.

This now walking miracle leaves his encounter with Jesus with a dirty mat from the ground he's sat on for so many years, but also a clean and pure heart; a heart set free from sin.

No other religious leader / figure can offer a clean heart. Any other religious system or religious leader cannot cleanse the heart where we are truly free from the weight of punishment and guilt of our sins. Only Jesus offers us clean hearts.