

TALKING JESUS: "HIS MISSION"

THESIS: Let's Talk Jesus

TEXT: Mark 2:1-17

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In **Mark 2:1-17** let's discover who we should talk to about Jesus and His gospel.

Historical: Capernaum means "village of comfort or relief." Jesus used Capernaum as a base for His earthly ministry thus it was called his own city (*Mtt 9:1*). Despite His teachings and miracles in Capernaum, the townspeople did not repent so Jesus prophesied the utter ruin of the place (*Mtt 11:23-24*).

Mark 2:1-2 *"When Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. ²So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them."*

Word (Greek: *logos*) means reason, expression, or revelation. "Logos is a term used by Greeks to refer to the governing power behind all things" (*The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, p. 1238).

***2 Timothy 4:2** "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

***1 Corinthians 15:1-2** "Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain."

Let's talk Jesus and His mission. What and to whom is His mission?

Mark 2:3-4 *"Some men came, bringing to Him a paralytic, 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 and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on."*

Luke 5:17-19 "One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus."

Historical: In Biblical times a typical house in the Middle East had a flat roof accessible by means of an outside staircase. The roof was often made of a thick layer of clay packed with a stone roller and supported by mats of branches across wooden beams (*Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1624).

Mark 2:5-7 *"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, '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?'"*

If anyone says to you—"Show me in the Bible where Jesus ever says or accepts that He is God"—please show them *Mark 2:5-7* "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Some teachers of the law were thinking to themselves, 'He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"

Mark 2:5-12 is a clear case among several in the New Testament of Jesus saying and showing that He is God:

***Matthew 12:8** "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

***John 8:46, 58** "Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin?...Before Abraham was born, I AM!"

--The phrase "I AM" here is translated "Jehovah" or "Yahweh," which is God's name for Himself (*Exodus 3:14*)

and means "Self-Existent One."

***John 10:30-33** "'I and the Father are one.' Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him... '(We are stoning You)

for blasphemy, because You, a mere man, claim to be God.'"

Illustration: Renowned author C.S. Lewis was once an agnostic. He writes: "I am trying to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: 'I'm ready to accept Him as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept Jesus' claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Mark 2:8-12 "Jesus said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...' He said to the paralytic, 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!'"

Insight from John MacArthur, Jr.: "When missionaries in northern Alaska were translating the Bible into the language of the Eskimos, they discovered there was no word in that language for forgiveness. After much patient listening, however, they discovered a word that means, 'not being able to think about it anymore.' That word was used throughout the translation to represent forgiveness, because God's promise to repentant sinners in *Jeremiah 31:34* is, 'I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more'" (*MacArthur NT Commentary, Mtt 8-15*, p. 52).

Insight from NIV Notes (p. 1527): "Jesus recognized that the bold action of the paralyzed man and his friends gave evidence of faith. By saying to the paralyzed man "your sins are forgiven," the Lord first met the man's deepest need—forgiveness." Jesus then deals with his physical paralysis moments later by healing his body. First, He dealt with his spiritual "paralysis" by forgiving the man's sins.

John 9:1-3 "As Jesus went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.'"

Insight from Walter Liefeld: "Instead of healing the man of his lameness first, Jesus forgave his sins. This hardly seemed to be what the man needed—at least on the surface. Quoting Schweizer: 'It is not as if this sick man were unusually sinful, but his case makes the universal separation of man from God more conspicuous and illustrates the truth which is proclaimed over and over in the OT, that suffering is rooted in man's separation from God. For this reason, Jesus must call attention here to man's deepest need—forgiveness (*Expositor's Bible Commentary, Luke*, p. 632).

Let's talk Jesus and His mission. What and to whom is His mission? Here is the "what" of Jesus' mission/message:

Mark 2:13-14 "Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to Him, and He began to teach them. ¹⁴As He walked along, He saw Levi (Matthew) son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow Me,' Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed Him."

Historical: The Greek word for tax-collector includes the meaning “plunderer.” Some tax-collectors became wealthy by plundering their fellow Jews. Tax collectors were locals who worked for Rome and often demanded unreasonable payments. They were considered traitors and were expelled from Jewish assemblies.

The message of Jesus is “Follow Me.” Here is the “to whom” —the mission of Jesus’ message:

Mark 2:16-17 “*When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw (Jesus) eating with the ‘sinners’ and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: ‘Why does He eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?’* ¹⁷*Jesus said to them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’*”

Scripture declares “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ” (*Romans 3:23-24*).

Application: Network evangelism—people in family, neighborhood, workplace, social, & “shops” (1-3 each reach).

CLOSE: Let’s talk Jesus and His salvation message because all need it.