



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Jesus Reveals and Heals Your Greatest Need! 4th Sunday of Epiphany

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!"

1. The paralytic in the story likely thought that his paralysis was his greatest need to get fixed. There's always urgent problems that pull our attention in different directions. What wants/needs have you been tempted lately to identify as your greatest need?

2. What does each passing challenge or problem reveal about what our greatest need really is?
3. See Mark 1:44,45 Why didn't Jesus want the people he healed to go and tell everyone about it?
4. Agree or Disagree: "The church doesn't do enough to help the poor or community charities."
5. These 4 creative friends figure out a way to get their friend to Jesus. Their way involved digging a hole through the roof. Think of one real way that you are going to get your real friend who really needs Jesus to Jesus (or get Jesus to him/her).
6. Standing over the paralytic man, Jesus reveals and heals his greatest need. What is it and what wasn't it? What does that reveal about your greatest need?
7. What did the teachers of the law mean when they said Jesus was blaspheming? What is ironic about their accusation?
8. Go ahead! Answer Jesus' question. Which is easier, "To say to this paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?"
9. The title "Son of Man" appears 81 times in the four gospels. This was Jesus' favorite way of referring to himself. How did this title allow him to fly under the radar of the Jewish teachers of the law?