



CROSS & CROWN

Mark 2:1-12

¹When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ²Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, ³four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. ⁵Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.'

⁶But some of the teachers of the religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷'What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!' ⁸Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? ⁹Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk?'" ¹⁰So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, ¹¹'Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!' ¹²And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, 'We've never seen anything like this before!'

Jesus knows your deepest NEED long before you know your deepest NEED.
"My child, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:5b)

Jesus has the POWER and AUTHORITY to meet your deepest needs.

"So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out..."
(Mark 2:10-12a)

**Crown-Related
Reflection Question:**

*Where do you need to
surrender to the Lordship
and authority of Jesus?*

**Cross-Related
Reflection Question:**

*Who are you carrying to
Jesus?*

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Read Mark 2:1-12. Take a moment to reflect upon the reactions and responses of each person included in the story. What stands out to you? What truths bubble to the surface for you?

- :: Jesus*
- :: The paralytic*
- :: The four friends*
- :: Teachers of religious law*
- :: Onlookers*

:: Pastor Josh talked through the dynamic of how God works in an area of need in our lives before we realize it's an area of need. Can you think of a time in your life when this has happened? What was your response? Were you eventually able to come to a place of trust?

:: Jesus has the authority and power to meet our needs and bring full healing: Body, Mind, Spirit.

- :: Share/reflect about a time when God brought healing to you.*
- :: Share/reflect about a current area of your life where you are asking God to bring healing.*

:: Reflect upon an area of your life where you need to relinquish control to Jesus.

- :: What is the roadblock that has prevented you from surrendering?*

:: Who do you need to carry to Jesus? Take a moment to pray for that person and ask God to give wisdom on how to demonstrate love to them.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Josh Howard (@joshhoward77) – February 27 & 28, 2021

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Join us for these great in-person opportunities:

9 & 11 am Worship Services – Sundays at the Rock Island & Bettendorf campuses
(expanded worship times begin on March 7th)

In-person Heritage Kids ministry at 9am begins March 14th.

See heritageqc.com or the Church Center App for more info!



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