

THE GOSPEL of

MARK

Authority Over Sin

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Authority
Over Sin

Book of Mark

- cryptic & direct
- Peter's accounts compiled by John Mark
- Inspired by Holy Spirit – encounter Gospel
- covers the three years of Jesus Public Ministry

Proclaimed as the Promised One

- John the Baptist, Spirit of God, Enemy

Authority Revealed

- teaching, leading, over demons, over sick

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MARK

2:1-17

“And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,

“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK** 2:1-17

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

- See Matthew 9:1-13
- See Luke 5:17-22

1. Setting and Surroundings

- back in Capernaum
- full house – access blocked
 - presence of scribes and Pharisees

a) Helpful Info on the Players

- Pharisee – literally set apart or separated one
- Highly educated, devoted to the law of God
- Leaders in community and faith
- constantly debating and establishing rules and practices to stay right before God

b) Tax Collectors

- Romans sublet tax collection to locals
- Bid system, will collect and submit this much
- Given Authority to collect, enforce
- Mark up was the profit, cheat and steal from your own people, rich & powerful – hated
- Seen as sell out, and if Kingdom being restored those who would face justice

c) Friends

- Capernaum residents who had hurting loved ones, knew Jesus could help - believed
- possibly those who missed Jesus last time
- unwilling to let obstacles stand in the way
- good at engineering and taking a risk!
- courage – in front of home owners and religious leaders, putting Jesus on the spot
- loved enough to do anything to put friend in front of Jesus

2. Jesus & the Paralytic Man

- interesting – why did they not stop and let them in once the destruction started?
- obscured by those there to investigate and argue

a) Faith on Display

- *‘And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic...’*
- believed that Jesus able to – no obstacle too great

b) Jesus Addressing the Real Issue

- *“Son, your sins are forgiven.”*
- big issue – separation from God, sin & its consequences
- healing – earthly issue, Heb. 9:27, standing with God – eternal issue

c) Scribes and Their Objections

- theology – sin and being unclean like something you can catch, rubs off on you
- avoid unclean, system of sacrifice & rules

- clear – Only God can Forgive Sin
- Jesus clear – this is who I am, authority I have

d) Take Your Stuff & Go

- to evidence the authority I have to forgive sin and reverse it's curse – stand up and go!
- huge point – I am who I claim to be

e) Amazed & Glorifying God

- impacted by what they have seen
- did it result in repentance, lordship?

3. Jesus & The Tax Man

a) Jesus notices someone not seeking Him

- beside sea, crowd coming to him, see's Levi at his booth
- goes to him where he is – invitation to follow
- unlikely choice!

b) Jesus hangs with those others despise

- remember clean & unclean by proximity
- those tax collectors & sinners – outcasts
- snub to those jockeying for status with him

c) Status by association

- big deal to be hosted by, seen with, eating
- direct challenge to control of existing rules

d) Challenged About His Choice

- does not minimize sin or their choices
- does not lower to participate
- loves, laughs and invites to wholeness
- clarity – came to call sinners to repentance

*note – time with Father & clarity of choice

So What?

1. Jesus came to forgive sin, restore relationship, set free the captive, give eternal life.
 - have you seen & accepted that?
 - how compelled are you to get those you love to encounter Jesus?
 - are you creative & resilient enough to find a way to get the past obstacles & encounter Jesus?

So What?

2. We can become those who block access to Jesus investigating and arguing.

- are we willing to get up and invite others to be touched by Jesus, accepting him & his claims?

3. How do we view the unlikely?

- do we invite them to follow?
- do they know we love them and see value?
- do we not minimize sin, but love the sinner?