

## Lesson 2      7 August, 2011

### Jesus, the Healer

**Lesson Scope:** *Mark 1:28-2:12*

#### Lesson Focus

During this beginning period of Jesus' ministry, He moved about quite freely. He ministered to various types of needs—physical, emotional, spiritual, and social (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18).

The implications of Jesus' healing ministry are spiritual. The cleansing of the leper is parallel to cleansing from sin. The healing of the man with palsy is typical of spiritual healing. In fact, Jesus directly linked this man's forgiven sins with His physical healing. He experienced both through faith in Jesus.

Jesus "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." Faith is the key that unlocks God's resources for man's spiritual healing.

This lesson emphasizes man's part in salvation. God has made adequate provision for the salvation of all men. He waits for men to respond to Him in faith. We see the need of man to take God at His Word. When "it is written," man must respond without question, knowing that God will always honor His Word.

Faith, in the seeking man, moves ahead regardless of the obstacles which seem to oppose him. A true, living faith realizes that nothing is too hard for God. A genuine desire to come to Jesus must overcome all love for self, friends, money, possessions, and every other hindrance to one's identifying with Jesus.

**Lesson Aim:** To see what constitutes saving faith.

**Theme Verse:** *Mark 5:34.* And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

## Lesson Text

### The Devils Rebuked

**Mark 1:33-39** <sup>33</sup> And all the city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup> And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. <sup>37</sup> And when they had found him, they said unto him, All *men* seek for thee. <sup>38</sup> And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. <sup>39</sup> And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

### The Leprous Man Cleansed

**Mark 1:40-45** <sup>40</sup> And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. <sup>41</sup> And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. <sup>42</sup> And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. <sup>43</sup> And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; <sup>44</sup> And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. <sup>45</sup> But he went out, and began to publish *it* much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

### Palsied Man Healed

**Mark 2:1-12** <sup>1</sup> And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house. <sup>2</sup> And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive *them*, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. <sup>3</sup> And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken *it* up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. <sup>6</sup> But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> Why doth this *man* thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? <sup>8</sup> And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye

these things in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, *Thy sins be forgiven thee*; or to say, *Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?* <sup>10</sup> But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) <sup>11</sup> I say unto thee, *Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.* <sup>12</sup> And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, *We never saw it on this fashion.*

## **Questions for Study**

### **The Devils Rebuked**

1. What is the result of genuine faith in Christ's provision?
2. List some evidences of a man seeking Christ.

### **The Leprous Man Cleansed**

3. What indications of humble worship are evident in verse 40?
4. Why was the leper called "cleansed" instead of "healed"?
5. What do we understand from the compassion of Jesus in verse 41? The

### **Palsied Man Healed**

6. How do we account for Jesus' healing of the palsied man when it appears he spoke no word of entreaty?
7. What are some possible expressions of doubting Christ's power to save?
8. What are some positive influences that a saved person can exert on others?

## **Analyzing the Passage**

The devils that Jesus was dealing with (Mark 1:34) knew who Jesus was. Jesus did not allow them to have mastery over the situation. Jesus is in control, even when it may seem to us that Satan is in control.

Jesus sensed His need of spiritual strength. He went into a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35). He did not underestimate the power of the forces of evil. He sensed His need of strength from God the Father.

The leper beseeching Him on his knees (1:40) indicated his desperation. He was at the end of himself and saw Jesus as his only hope. Leprosy, a type of sin, very fittingly portrays the hopelessness of one in a sinful condition.

The man sick of the palsy (Mark 2:3) remained in a very helpless condition. Apparently paralyzed, he depended on four people to carry him wherever he wanted to go. These men expended considerable effort to let this man down through the tiling of the roof.

Jesus' declaration to the palsied man that his sins were forgiven brought forth questions from the scribes (2:5-7). They stated that God alone can forgive sin. This is true. But they did not accept Jesus as the Son of God. The healing of the palsied man stood as proof that nothing is too hard for God, neither physical healing nor forgiving sins (2:10, 11).

## **Principles and Applications**

### **The Devils Rebuked**

1. Faith results in healing for all manner of diseases (1:34). There was no sickness that Jesus could not heal. Neither is there any person too sinful to save. When a person exercises faith in the provision for forgiveness with a surrender of his will to Christ, Christ "will in no wise cast [him] out" (John 6:37).
2. Saving faith first requires a seeking after Christ (1:36, 37). God has moved toward man in providing for forgiveness of sins. He now waits for man to move toward him in faith. When a man does this, he can have confidence that God will forgive his sins and save his soul.
3. Christ desires all men to experience saving faith (1:38, 41). In today's world, evil is rampant. There is no explanation why judgment has not already fallen except that God is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus indicated that He came to preach to all He could (1:38).

### **The Leprous Man Cleansed**

4. The man of faith recognizes his need of Christ's cleansing (1:40). When a person senses his true condition before God, he becomes desperate for spiritual cleansing. This desperation, coupled with faith, moves him to pursue that cleansing at all cost. This attitude toward Christ's ability to cleanse motivates one to a full surrender to Him.
5. Saving faith. results in complete cleansing by Jesus Christ (1:42). Salvation comes immediately and cleansing is complete at the moment of surrender. There is immediate justification before God. However, this is only the beginning of a new life. Nurture and growth must continue.

### **The Palsied Man Healed**

6. Saving faith produces a resolve that overcomes obstacles (2:1-4). The casual observer of this situation would have concluded that there was no possibility of getting close to Jesus. However, this man sick of the palsy and the four men carrying him were not content with this conclusion. The four put forth the needed effort to carry the man to the rooftop, break up the roof and let down the man to Jesus. They were convinced that nothing was big enough to be a valid obstacle for their intentions.

How much does it take for you to conclude that the effort needed to come to Jesus is not worthwhile? Only a persistent resolve will overcome all obstacles one might face.

7. Through faith in Christ, man's sins are forgiven (Mark 2:5). Many stumble at the simplicity of salvation. Jesus has the will and the power to perform His work of cleansing. It is man's part only to repent of his sins and to cry out to God for cleansing.

8. A lack of faith causes one to doubt Christ's power (Mark 2:6-7). These scribes were "reasoning in their hearts." Their conclusion from human reasoning was that Jesus was speaking blasphemously. Instead of accepting Jesus' divinity, they attempted to reason around His wonderful works. If a person approaches Christ with many doubts and questions concerning Christ's power to save, he surely will not experience salvation. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

9. Christ heals completely those who have faith in Him (Mark 2:11-12). At Jesus command, this man received strength to arise and take up his bed. When Jesus heals a person spiritually, his life is new and he experiences power to overcome what formerly held him in bondage. He has spiritual power to overcome temptation. He has new strength to meet the varied issues of life.

10. The man of faith influences others to also glorify God (Mark 2:12). When a man receives salvation and new life in Christ, others will see the change. His desires are changed. His motivations come from the Holy Spirit's presence within. He no longer lives for self but to glorify God. His life now causes others to take notice and also glorify God. They will affirm that this is indeed a miraculous change.

### **Important Teachings**

1. Faith results in healing for all manner of diseases (Mark 1:34).
2. Saving faith first requires a seeking after Christ (Mark 1:36, 37).
3. Christ desires all men to experience saving faith (Mark 1:38, 41).
4. The man of faith recognizes his need of Christ's cleansing (Mark 1:40).
5. Saving faith results in complete cleansing by Jesus Christ (Mark 1:42).
6. Saving faith produces a resolve that overcomes obstacles (Mark 2:1-4).
7. Through faith in Christ, man's sins are forgiven (Mark 2:5).
8. A lack of faith causes one to doubt Christ's power (Mark 2:6-7).
9. Christ heals completely those who have faith in Him (Mark 2:11-12).
10. The man of faith influences others to also glorify God (Mark 2:12)

## Answers to Questions

1. What is the result of genuine faith in Christ's provision?

There is always spiritual healing when a person comes to Christ in genuine faith and surrender. "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

2. List some evidences of a man seeking Christ.

A desire to hear the preaching of the Word, making changes in one's life to conform to the teaching of the Word, and a teachable spirit are evidences of seeking Christ.

3. What indications of humble worship are evident in verse 40? The leper besought Him. He kneeled down to Him. He did not demand cleansing, but said, "If Thou wilt."

4. Why was the leper called "cleansed" instead of "healed"?

Leprosy as a type of sin indicates a need for cleansing as a type of the cleansing from sin. There were social laws and ceremonies for the cleansing of a leper in the Old Testament (Leviticus 13, 14).

5. What do we understand from the compassion of Jesus in verse 41?

Jesus is touched by the feeling of our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus is moved by the effects of sin upon mankind and ever desires to cleanse man from sin.

6. How do we account for Jesus' healing of the palsied man when it appears he spoke no word of entreaty?

Jesus needed no entreaty to heal this man. He "saw their faith." He recognized desire, determination, and complete trust that their efforts would not be in vain.

7. What are some possible expressions of doubting Christ's power to save?

"Christ isn't interested in me." "I am too great a sinner for Christ to save."

"The way of salvation is too simple." "I don't believe the Bible." Failing to claim assurance of salvation when we have met all the conditions may be a form of doubting Christ's power to save.

8. What are some positive influences that a saved person can exert on others?

A changed life, one that has power to live godly, speaks as loudly to others as any words which may be said. Self-interest exchanged for interest in the welfare of others and faithfulness in one's responsibilities instead of shirking responsibility also bestow positive influence.

## Summarizing the Lesson

Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind, but now I see.  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!  
—John Newton

## Research Guide

1. Read the chapter titled "Faith" in *Doctrines of the Bible*.
2. Read references on "Faith—in Christ" in *Nave's Topical Bible*.