

Study Guide

Mark 1:40-2:12

Jesus enters and disrupts our world and begins to create little “pockets of heaven” (Bible Project) everywhere. He makes many unexpected moves and it takes us aback, leaving us wondering what He is about. Through two powerful accounts of people being healed, Jesus gives us insight into His passion, His power and His priorities. According to Mark 2:12, people are amazed and say to each other, “*We never saw anything like this.*”

1. Read Mark 1:40-42.

- a. What did it mean to be a leper back then?
- b. How did the leper approach Jesus?
- c. How did Jesus react to the leper?
- d. How are you and I like that leper?

2. According to Mark 1:43-45, why do you think Jesus told the leper to say nothing? What is Jesus’ priority (see also Mark 1:38)? How do we tend to make it about ourselves rather than the Kingdom of God? How can we be more intent on God’s priorities than our own? Discuss.

3. Read Mark 2:1-5.

- a. Describe the atmosphere around what was happening here.
- b. What virtue did Jesus honor? Why do think that is?
- c. Why do you think being forgiven is superior to being physically healed?

4. Read Mark 2:6-12. How does it impact you to know that you are forgiven, based on the authority of God, and not on a philosophy?

Application- Individually and silently meditate on The Lord’s Prayer

Ask God’s Spirit to guide your thoughts as you think about each phrase and how God may want to use you to create little “pockets of heaven” on earth.

Matt. 6:10-13

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
¹⁰Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹Give us this day our daily bread,
¹²and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Message Slides

Mark 1:40-2:12

(Youtube video- The Bible Project- "Heaven and Earth")

I. Jesus Heals a Leper

A. The Passion of Christ (1:40-42)

“And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” “Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” “And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Matt. 11:5- “The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed...”

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2 Cor. 4:6 “For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

I. Jesus Heals a Leper

A. The Passion of Christ (1:40-42)

B. The Priority of Christ (v.43-45)

“And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, “and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” “But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

John 2:24-25 (RSV)

“... many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; but Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man.”

II. Jesus Heals a Paralytic

A. Complete Healing (2:1-5)

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.”



“Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” Ps. 103:2-3

II. Jesus Heals a Paralytic

A. Complete Healing (2:1-5)

B. With Authority (v.6-12)

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!”

Meditate on The Lord’s Prayer

Matt. 6:10-13

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