

WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY.  
-48.C.  
HEM, JUDEA

KLUGS

THE MESSIAH:  
PREPARE THE WAY FOR

# WHO IS TH

When they arrived the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side of the entrance. The women were shocked. They said to him, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who has been crucified. He isn't here. He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, and say to them that Jesus is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## WHO AM I? // WHO IS JESUS?



### CHAPTER 2

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the houses where he was staying were so packed with visitors that there was no room left, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, a few men entered carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they made a hole in the roof above his head and lowered the mat with the man on it. Jesus looked at them and said, "My son, your faith has healed you. Then get up and take your mat and go home." The man got up and went home praising God.

15 Later, Jesus and James and his disciples went to dinner guests, along with some tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) So that when the teachers of religion (as well as the Pharisees and other sinners) they asked him, "Why do you eat and drink with sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard this, he said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I have come to call sinners."

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- Around 135 questions from Jesus, some are hard and harsh—why?
  - Reveals God's disgust with pride and how we can derail others' search for Christ
  - It means its a GREAT way to teach bc Jesus is the GREAT teacher!
- Most important questions: 1) Who do men say that I am?  
2) Who do you say that I am?
- The life of a disciple of Christ is full of questions and uncertainty
- All of Christ's questions cause us to consider
  - Who am I?
  - Who is Jesus?



## **Mark 2:1–12 (NASB)**

When He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. 4 Being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. 5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"



## **Mark 2:1–12 (NASB) [continued]**

8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, “Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven’; or to say, ‘Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk’? 10 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, 11 “I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home.” 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”



- We're worried about the man's body, but Jesus is more concerned with his heart
- Many people think the greatest struggle is to figure out their heart so they can be "true to themselves"
- Scripture says my greatest struggle is with myself and the brokenness of my heart
  - My heart is where we place the thing we trust the most
- Without Scripture and the Holy Spirit, all we can do is get lost in self-absorption



- Jesus says, "God knows your heart, where you love the wrong things, and he wants the deepest affections of your heart"
- Once my heart is redirected to worship God, my heart can change and become like Jesus



- Jesus knew what they were thinking in their hearts...3 kinds of people in the text:

1. Friends—we gotta get this guy to Jesus! Undeterred and single-minded

- Who is paralyzed in your life that might come to Jesus if you carried them there and dug through the roof?
  - What a gift of Christian community!
  - What a testimony of love!
  - What determination!
  - What availability!



2. Scribes—sitting on the throne of their hearts; no one is better at being better than others!

- Jesus knows they are wondering “Who are you to say he’s forgiven? Only God can do that! Blasphemer!”
- Jesus does the “harder” thing to prove the “easier”
- How can Jesus forgive any of us, change the heart of the sinner, paralytic, religiously self-righteous?
  - He must die



3. Man—was it a confusing bummer when Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven”?

- It’s because our view is deficient, not God!
- This highlights that healing is the lower thing—the gift with an expiration date!
  - “If I just had \_\_\_\_\_, I’d be fulfilled and happy!”
  - If you could claw through the roof of Jesus’ house and ask for something, what would it be?
- We think we know our main problem, but we don’t know our own hearts!



- If the source of life is outside of God, we should all run out of here and get busy chasing it!
- We consistently display the fact that our hearts are bottomless pits of seeking life apart from God
- How much of our anxiety and fear as Christians is that we forget that our deepest needs have been provided for in Christ?



- The aggressive grace of Jesus!
  - We are dead set against Jesus, dead to sin and alive to sin!
  - God is more ready to give grace than we are to accept it
- There does seem seem to be a response to faith here
  - God responds to the tiniest, unformed seed of faith



- Who am I?
  - We are paralytics who need someone else to fulfill our deepest needs
  - We are doubters and untrusting of the One who would fulfill us
  - We are surrounded by those who need to be carried to Jesus
  - We need someone who can see into our hearts and answer our deepest needs
  - We don't know much about ourselves
  - Our brokenness is what qualifies us for God's love and attention
  - We often lose sight of the infinite value finite tenure of our suffering



- How sad we are when we live like we're still paralytics
- We like healing better than grace giving Jesus



- Who is Jesus?
  - He loves us with a depth we cannot understand
  - The love of God is unstoppable
  - The only way for us to walk is for Jesus to give us a song in our hearts
  - The only way for Jesus to change our hearts is for him to be nailed to the cross
  - Jesus is completely committed to his version of what will make us eternally happy
  - God alone can heal the heart and discern what we need most and forgive sins
  - Jesus tore a hole in the wall of separation between us and heaven to bring us close to God



- The craziest thing about Jesus isn't that he could heal a paralytic
  - It's that he loves us with an aggressive and generous love
  - It's that he can change and fulfill our hearts
- Jesus wants you to trust him to give you what you need most