

Able to Forgive

Mark 2:1-12

- I. Brought to Jesus in Faith: The sincere faith of the paralyzed man's friends (Mark 2:1-4)
- A. The paralyzed man was brought by friends to the house where Jesus was preaching (2:1-2).
 - Only God is able to connect our need to His ability.
 - B. When the crowd was too great, the friends dug through the roof of the house to get their friend to Jesus (2:3-4).
 - One purpose of God when we suffer: Suffering causes us to need and pursue God.
 - One purpose of God when we see suffering: Suffering should prompt us to be compassionate advocates.

<p style="text-align: center;">Portrait of a True Friend</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Practical Help: Being a persistent advocate2. Spiritual Help: Encouraging those who lack confidence in God by expressing our faith.

- II. Forgiven and healed by Jesus' Authority: The cynical disbelief of Jesus' enemies (Mark 2:5-12)
- A. Jesus declared the man to be forgiven of his sins (2:5).
 - Our deepest needs are always spiritual, not physical.
 - Jesus knows all of our guilt, and wants to free us from its bondage.
 - B. The scribes objected to Jesus' statement because to forgive is a claim to deity (2:6-7).
 - A person who rejects who Jesus is cannot escape the burden of guilt.
 - C. Jesus healed the paralytic physically to teach that He had the authority to forgive spiritually (2:8-12).
 - The primary need of every person is to understand that God is eager and able to forgive our sin.
 - God is glorified whenever God acts.