

Which is Easier?

Mark 2:1-12

When people discovered that Jesus was in a house in Capernaum, an enormous crowd gathered. There was standing room only. A paralyzed man was carried to the scene by four friends, but the crowd prevented them from getting close to the Lord. We can imagine the paraplegic saying, “Friends, do whatever it takes to get me to Jesus. I know He can help me.”

They came up with an ingenious scheme to lower the paralytic from the roof. Someone has nicknamed these four friends Sympathy, Cooperation, Originality and Persistence! Jesus saw **“their”** faith, the faith of the man and his friends (v. 5). Speaking directly to the paralyzed one He said, “Thy sins are forgiven.” The scribes heard this and considered it blasphemy: “Who can forgive sins but God only?”

It would have been blasphemy except for the fact that Jesus was God and had full authority to forgive. The scribes must have been shocked when Jesus revealed what they had been thinking (another proof that He was God).

He then posed the key question (paraphrased): “Which is easier, to forgive this man’s sins or to heal him?” Of course, neither miracle is easy; both are impossible. Only God can forgive sins and only God can heal a man in this condition!

But there is a difference. People cannot see whether a man’s sins have been forgiven, but the healing of a paralytic is evident to all. In order to demonstrate to this crowd that He had the authority to forgive sins, He healed the paralyzed man. The crowd was stunned with amazement, God was glorified, and the Lord proved His authority, both in the physical realm (healing) and in the spiritual realm (forgiving).

Has the Lord forgiven all your sins? Through the Name and authority of Jesus “whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



Which is Easier?

Mark 2:1-12

When people discovered that Jesus was in a house in Capernaum, an enormous crowd gathered. There was standing room only. A paralyzed man was carried to the scene by four friends, but the crowd prevented them from getting close to the Lord. We can imagine the paraplegic saying, “Friends, do whatever it takes to get me to Jesus. I know He can help me.”

They came up with an ingenious scheme to lower the paralytic from the roof. Someone has nicknamed these four friends Sympathy, Cooperation, Originality and Persistence! Jesus saw **“their”** faith, the faith of the man and his friends (v. 5). Speaking directly to the paralyzed one He said, “Thy sins are forgiven.” The scribes heard this and considered it blasphemy: “Who can forgive sins but God only?”

It would have been blasphemy except for the fact that Jesus was God and had full authority to forgive. The scribes must have been shocked when Jesus revealed what they had been thinking (another proof that He was God).

He then posed the key question (paraphrased): “Which is easier, to forgive this man’s sins or to heal him?” Of course, neither miracle is easy; both are impossible. Only God can forgive sins and only God can heal a man in this condition!

But there is a difference. People cannot see whether a man’s sins have been forgiven, but the healing of a paralytic is evident to all. In order to demonstrate to this crowd that He had the authority to forgive sins, He healed the paralyzed man. The crowd was stunned with amazement, God was glorified, and the Lord proved His authority, both in the physical realm (healing) and in the spiritual realm (forgiving).

Has the Lord forgiven all your sins? Through the Name and authority of Jesus “whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

