

February 26th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 7)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Have you ever known someone who was physically paralyzed? What limitations did they have? How do you think this relates to you spiritually? Is it possible to be spiritually paralyzed? What limitations did you have?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 2:1-12. When you read this story, there are several categories about the people represented in this story: The Crowd, The Committed, The Crippled, The Critic. Out of these categories, which one would you see yourself fitting into?

Here are the characteristics of each category:

<u>Crowd</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Crippled</u>	<u>Critic</u>
Seeking	Eyes	Dependent	Questioning
Selfish	Hands	Discouraged	Judging
Stunned	Minds	Desperate	Doubting
	Hearts	Delighted	

Question 2: Read Mark 2:2-4. Pastor Jeff asked the question, are you in a season of faith right now because you are not entering the presence of Jesus? One of the key takeaways from this story is getting into the presence of Jesus at all costs. Even when you need to be creative. Even when it looks impossible. How are you, on a regular basis, getting into the presence of Jesus?

Read John 14:23 – God is literally inside you once you trust Jesus. You can be in God's presence wherever you are. But do you intentionally take time to be with Him?

Question 3: Read Mark 2:5-9. Jesus is showing us something profound while this man is in His presence. The faith of this man's friends helps heal him from his condition. But not everyone in the room was convinced! Does that ever happen in your own heart? As verse 9 says, "they questioned within themselves." Is your faith ever weakened because you are not expressing your faith to Jesus? How do you see from this story that this is significant?

Read Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 12:2. What do these verses say about where your faith comes from and who it sustains it? This should encourage you!

Question 4: Read Mark 2:10-12. By the end of this story, Jesus shows his forgiveness and his ultimate spiritual power. Jesus makes it very clear that He is God (**v.10**), and that he can heal anyone from any condition, physically and spiritually! How are you on a regular basis reminding yourself of God's forgiveness towards you? How are you remembering the unlimited power Jesus has over all things?

Read Matthew 28:18 – How does this verse remind you of Jesus' power? How does this encourage you?

Taking it Home

Reflect on these verses related to the above questions:

The Faith God Gives us: Ephesians 2:8-9

The Forgiveness God shows us: 1 John 1:9

The Power God has over all things: Colossians 1:6

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?