

The Healing of Jesus

Discussion Questions

Mark 2:1-12

These questions are identical to the sermon discussion questions from an earlier message from this year called “Ripping off the Roof” - preached from the same passage. If you are in need of newer questions, check out the “extra questions” section after the “apply it” section.

Open It

What would you think of a person who claimed to be something he or she was not?
What do you think would be most difficult about being paralyzed?

Explore It

Where did the events of this story take place? (2:1-2)
What exactly was Jesus doing when the events of this story took place? (2:2)
What dilemma did the paralytic man and his friends face? (2:2-4)
What do the details of the story tell you about the paralytic man, his friends, and Jesus' reputation? (2:3-4)
How did the paralytic man's friends solve the dilemma that they faced? (2:4)
How did the paralytic man's friends get Jesus' attention? (2:4-5)
How did Jesus evaluate the faith of the paralytic man and his friends? (2:5)
What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man's plight? (2:5)
Why did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of blasphemy? (2:6-7)
How did Jesus respond to the thoughts of the Pharisees? (2:8-9)
How did Jesus show that He had authority to forgive sins? (2:9)
What did Jesus mean by "Son of Man"? (2:10)
Why did Jesus heal the paralytic man? (2:10-12)
Until now, Jesus had been preaching but not performing miracles; why did He heal this particular man? (2:10-12)

Get It

Why do you think Jesus chose to forgive the man's sins before healing him physically?
Which is it easier for us to do—forgive others or care for them when they're sick?
How is God's viewpoint different from ours regarding the forgiveness of sins?
What connection is there between a person's faith and God's working in his or her life?
What does God require or not require to forgive us of our sins?
How would you compare Jesus' response in this story to the Pharisees' attitudes?

What does this story tell you is the difference between true spirituality and counterfeit spirituality?
What is one paralysis in your life from which you want Jesus to release you?
What problems, needs, or weaknesses in your life are there that God can use?

Apply It

What specific steps can you take this week to show faith in Christ?
What broken area of your life will you ask God to heal?
Following the example of the paralytic man's friends, how could you go out of your way to help another believer who is experiencing pain or suffering?

Extra Questions:

What are the most important questions a thoughtful person should ask about life?
How was Jesus' teaching more profitable than His healing ministry? Is the gospel still more valuable than health and wealth?
How is faith in God's ability to do something through us related to our tenacious persistence in getting it done?
When you see someone who is crippled, starving, deformed, or poor, do you also think the person really needs salvation?
Can a Christian pronounce that another person's sins are forgiven? (See Matt 16:19.) How would that be different from what Jesus did here?
Why is it easy to point at someone and make statements about their spiritual state?
What else do charlatans say to and about people that is impossible to prove?
What does Jesus' title "Son of Man" say about His purpose in His first and second coming?
What is the difference between circumstances and needs? How can the church avoid getting caught up in addressing circumstances and focus on the true needs of people?
Why did the people of Jesus' day accept the healing of the paralytic as evidence that Jesus had forgiven his sins? Today, what serves as evidence of forgiveness?