

REMEMBER THE MISSION

Remember the Mission!

Key idea:

Every miracle Jesus did, every parable Jesus told, and everything he said or did was to reveal God's mission for his people. The people benefited, but the point was advancing the mission.

Key text:

Mark 2:1-12 (CSB)

When he entered Capernaum again after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them. They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they were not able to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: "Why does he speak like this? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he told the paralytic — "I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone. As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Key points:

1. While people came to Jesus for healings and miracles, he preached the Word to them first. The Gospel was his mission.
2. Jesus did his work in a way that was consistent with both the mission and character of God, even if the religious didn't understand or accept it.

3. God works in such a way that the object of attention should be the one driving the work, not the work itself.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. What comes to mind when we think about Jesus performing miracles for people in Scripture?
3. What is the significance of Jesus explaining His reason for doing this miracle? Why does the conversation unfold in this way?
4. What does it mean when God does a work so that people "will know that I am the LORD"?
5. In what ways do I believe God forgiving my sin is sufficient? In what ways does this passage challenge my thinking in that respect?
6. Do I bring my needs to God in view of His mission, or of my own?
7. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this coming Sunday?