

# Whole Again

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November 5th 2006

## Introduction

*When has God answered your prayers for a loved one to get well?*

*When was a time in your life you prayed to God and you didn't get what you asked for...his answer was even better?*

One of the most striking things about Jesus' ministry is his ability to heal. We look all around us and see sickness and disease and wish there was more we could do about it. We constantly have prayer requests for those who are sick. Wouldn't it have incredible to see Jesus heal so many people?

## Text

### Mark 2:1-5

*What would your first thoughts have been about these men who just dug through your friend's roof?*

- "Who do you think you are that you can cut in line like that!?!"
- "How rude to smash a hole in the ceiling!"
- "What makes you more important than everyone else in here?"

*Why had his friends lowered him through the roof?*

- To get his body healed from his disease.

*Everyone else saw these men's actions, what did Jesus see?*

- Their faith that was even willing to push to the extreme for a chance to encounter Christ.
- Jesus saw the *inside* while the crowd may have seen the *outside*.

*What did Jesus say to this man once he was on the ground?*

- "Son, your sins are forgiven."

*Once Jesus forgave his sins in verse 5, was he able to walk yet?*

- No.

*How would you feel if you came to Jesus for healing and he forgave your sins but left you paralyzed?*

- Some may feel cheated. The point is, that was the bigger problem.
- Sin is more deadly than a paralyzed body. A sick soul is more harmful than non-functioning limbs.
- You can go to heaven paralyzed but you cannot go to heaven with sin.

But Jesus didn't leave him paralyzed. Jesus goal was not to heal eyes and limbs but to make him, and others like him, whole again. He came to reverse the effects of sin on our world and eventually to even put an end to death itself (Revelation 21:4).

*As this man had friends who helped him get to Jesus, who in your life helped bring you closer to Jesus?*

### **Mark 2:6-12**

*What did these teachers of the law accuse Jesus of in their thoughts?*

- Blaspheming, acting as if he were God himself.

*How would you have reacted if someone just read your mind and told you what you were thinking?*

By forgiving sins, Jesus was showing them that his status was equal to God.

*What misunderstanding did they have about who Jesus was and his authority?*

- That Jesus was indeed God and that he did have the authority to forgive sins.

*Why do you think Jesus took time to heal him of his sins before healing his body?*

- Jesus did the most important thing first.
- Jesus could see his deepest need and handled that first.
- Verse 10 says, So they would know that he could forgive sins.

*How did Jesus show that he did indeed have the ability to forgive sins?*

- When Jesus healed him of his paralysis, it was evident that Jesus had power to do what he said he was able to do.

Jesus came to make all things new. He came to make our broken world whole again and to transform our broken lives into who he made us to be, "new creations" (2 Cor 5:17). What Jesus did was so different that the response of the crowd was that they "had never seen anything like this!" *What has God done in your life that was so amazing it took your breath away?*

## **Application**

*How can we let God be glorified through our weaknesses?*

- By giving him glory even in our weakest moments.
- By letting him take care of things in our lives that we could never do on our own.

*If you were the paralyzed man, which would you be more excited over, having your legs healed or your sins forgiven?*

- While it might be more amazing to the eye to see a paralyzed man walk, it should be more amazing to our hearts and souls to know Jesus forgave his sins. The visible tends to be more spectacular because

you can see it. The reality is the spiritual need is the most important.

The paralytic and his friends had a great deal of faith. Jesus recognized that and not only healed his legs but also his sin.

*What specific steps can you take this week to show your faith in Christ?*

*What broken area of your life will you ask God to heal and make whole?*

*Following the example of the paralytic's friends, how could you go out of your way to help another believer who is experiencing pain or suffering?*

## Put it into Practice

Growing our faith requires situations that are impossible for us to handle on our own. Find an area in your life that has been difficult to handle and ask God to make your life whole again.

**Leaders:** Have a prayer that we will grow in our faith for what God is trying to do in our lives and in the lives of those around us.