



Authority & Compassion

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The Authority to do the Greatest Thing...

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (*Mark 2:1-5*)

Note: Your faith plays a big role in the lives of others

Four things happened:

The paralytic is confused

The friends are frustrated

The crowd is disappointed

The religious leaders are upset

*The Scandalous Servant Savior
Part Two: Authority and Compassion*

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (**Mark 2:6-7**)

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’” (**Mark 2:8-9**)

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” He said to the paralytic, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” (**Mark 2:10-12**)

Note: Jesus healed to demonstrate his authority to forgive sin

Bottom Line:

**Your Greatest Need is Forgiveness and
only Jesus has the Authority to give it.**

1. What do you think most people see as their biggest needs today? What do you usually think are your top needs?
2. Take a moment to think about the things you'd like Jesus to fix in your life. If He showed up in your life tomorrow and said, you name it and I'll fix it, what would you most want Him to do?
3. **Read Mark 2:1-5:** What do you think the different characters were experiencing when Jesus said, "Son your sins are forgiven."?
 - a. **The Paralytic**
 - b. **The Four Friends**
 - c. **The Crowd**
 - d. **The Religious Leaders**
 - e. **Jesus**
4. Why do you think Jesus first dealt with the issue of forgiveness with this person instead of healing him? What does this tell you about Jesus' main focus?
5. How big of a deal do most people think "sin: is in their life? Share when you became aware of your need for forgiveness.
6. **Read Mark 2:9:** Which one do we think is easier?
7. Why did Jesus eventually heal the paralytic? What did the healing have to do with Jesus' ability to forgive?
8. Pastor Bill said the main point of the story is that Forgiveness is our greatest need. If that is true, what are the implications for all of us?
9. **Mark 2:5a: "When Jesus saw their faith..."** What role do you believe your faith plays in the lives of others? **Who is in your life that you want to see God change this year? What do you believe God would have you do?**
10. Spend some time thanking God for forgiveness and praying for those who still need to understand their need for it.