

¹ And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house. ² And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive *them*, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. ³ And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. ⁴ And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken *it* up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. ⁶ But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷ Why doth this *man* thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? ⁸ And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? ⁹ Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, *Thy* sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? ¹⁰ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) ¹¹ I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. ¹² And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion. (Mark 2:1-12)

I. Introduction

A. First of four gospels written in New Testament

B. John Mark very active in early church

1. Acts 12:12 – Peter after leaving prison, comes to home of Mary, mother of John Mark
2. Acts 12:25 – Barnabus & Saul bring John Mark with them when they returned from Jerusalem to Antioch
3. Acts 13:5 – John Mark goes on first missionary journey with Barnabus & Saul
4. Acts 13:13 – John Mark leaves Barnabus & Paul before completing first missionary journey
5. Acts 15:37-39 – Barnabus wants to take John Mark with Saul on beginning of second missionary journey. But Paul refuses John Mark. Barnabus takes John Mark with him sailing to Cyprus instead
6. 2 Tim 4:11 – Paul asks Timothy to bring Mark with him because Mark is useful in God's ministry

C. Early church fathers wrote that John Mark wrote his gospel based upon Peter's testimony of Jesus

II. Love Labors

- A. They Came to Jesus
 - 1. Jesus was in Capernaum in a private home
 - 2. He preached God's Word to the surrounding crowd
- B. They brought one person
 - 1. Four men carried their crippled friend on a stretcher pallet to meet Jesus
 - 2. Three components to soulwinning
 - a. Word of God
 - b. Holy Spirit that convicts person
 - c. Christian witness

III. Love Sacrifices

- A. Obstacle Observed
 - 1. But the 4 friends found a huge crowd surrounding the house
 - 2. They could not get through the crowd
- B. Four friends had a plan
 - 1. The four friends climbed up on to the roof of the house
 - 2. They brought their crippled friend with them
- C. Obstacle Overcome
 - 1. They broke opened up the roof of the house
 - 2. They let the pallet down with ropes to Jesus below
- IV. Bringing others to church
 - a. Pray before you visit
 - b. Offer a ride to church
 - c. Offer a meal
 - d. Give a reminder notice
 - e. Offer a reason to come to church

VI. Love Forgives

- A. Jesus saw their faith
 - 1. Jesus saw the crippled man & the 4 friends above on the roof
 - 2. Direct quote: "when Jesus saw their faith"
 - a. Jesus saw the faith of the four friends
 - b. Bible does not say the faith of the crippled man
- B. Jesus forgave sin
 - 1. Jesus tells the crippled man "Son, your sins are forgiven."
 - 2. Four practices of faithful witness for Christ
 - a. Pray for a burden for souls
 - b. Renew your vision
 - c. Carry gospel tracts
 - d. Keep list of names

V. **Conclusion**

- A. Jesus heals the crippled man (Mark 2:11-12)
 - 1. Jesus tells the man to get up from the pallet bed
 - 2. Former crippled man walked home that day