



JESUS IN THE CROWDED HOUSE

Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26

¹And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. ²Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. ³Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” ⁶And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷“Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk?’ ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, ¹¹“I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” ¹²Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

—Mark 2:1–12

¹⁷Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. ¹⁸Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. ¹⁹And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they

went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰*When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”* ²¹*And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”* ²²*But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?”* ²³*Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’?* ²⁴*But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”* ²⁵*Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.* ²⁶*And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”*

—Luke 5:17–26

Read Mark 2:1–12 and Luke 5:17–26

We often give God directives when we pray, instructing Him on what to say to others and how He should specifically work. When we do this, we are failing to realize the sovereignty of God when He speaks and works. God always works with the intentionality of fulfilling His great purposes and making His will and ways known. Isaiah 40:12–14 reminds us of the vast superiority of God’s wisdom and ways: *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?*

Unlike God, we do not know the thoughts of men. Therefore, when we ask God to speak, our requests are often directed at what we are assuming and presuming, rather than

what is actually going on in a person's heart. We are often ignorant of the unusual ways in which God accomplishes His will. As God pointed out in Isaiah 55:8–9, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Jesus was intentional in all He said and did. When Jesus spoke to the paralytic in the crowded house—*Your sins are forgiven*—He was fully aware that His words would upset the religious leaders. Yet, Jesus wanted everyone in that crowd (and those reading His Word today) to know that He, as God's Son and the Messiah, has the power on earth to forgive men's sins.

As believers, it is essential that we pay attention to what Jesus has spoken to us and how He works in our lives. God never works haphazardly but has intentionality in His words, timing, and ways. No wonder Jesus told us to pray, *Your kingdom come. Your will be done* (Matthew 6:10).

This week as you survey the account of Jesus in the crowded house, consider the intentionality of what Jesus said and did that you might be assured that Jesus has the power to forgive you of your sins!

1. Use Mark 2:1–2 and Luke 5:17 to remark on:
 - a. The house Jesus was in
 - b. What Jesus was doing in the house
 - c. Those in the house

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus had begun to attract the notice and the attention of a hostile crowd, the Pharisees, the doctors of the law, and they were coming all the way from Jerusalem up to the area of Galilee because they heard of Him. And their purpose of coming was really of being more critical than accepting. Yet while they were there, the power of the Lord was present to heal.

—Pastor Chuck Smith

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The average home could fit a maximum of approximately fifty people at one time.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of the houses in Israel had outside stairs leading up to a flat roof. Luke mentions “tiles” which could be describing the wealth of the owners or a mud roof made from slabs of mud baked in the sun.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.⁹

- d. How many were gathered in the house
 - e. The *power* that was in the house
2. From Mark 2:3–4 and Luke 5:18–19, describe the scene that took place in the house.
 3. Use Mark 2:5 and Luke 5:20 to note and comment on:
 - a. What Jesus saw
 - b. How Jesus responded
 4. What was the response of the scribes and Pharisees to Jesus’ declaration? Mark 2:6–7, Luke 5:21
 5. Answer the following questions using Mark 2:8–11 and Luke 5:22–24:
 - a. What did Jesus perceive?

- b. What did Jesus acknowledge?
 - c. What could Jesus have said?
 - d. Why did Jesus say it as He did?
 - e. What did Jesus say?
6. According to Mark 2:12 and Luke 5:25–26:
- a. What happened to the paralytic?
 - b. What was the response of the people in the house?
7. Take time to share your thoughts on the following from the crowded house:
- a. The Pharisees and teachers of the law
 - b. The four young men
 - c. The paralytic

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is the first time in the Gospel of Mark where Jesus took upon Himself the messianic title, the Son of man. Daniel wrote in Daniel 7:13 about One like the Son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. So, when Jesus said He is the Son of man, He wasn't just saying He was human. Anyone could say that. He was saying He was the Messiah.

—Pastor Chuck Smith

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

—Luke 5:26, NLT

d. Jesus

8. What does it mean to you that Jesus *has the power on earth to forgive sins*?
9. What is your greatest takeaway from Jesus in the crowded house?