

PREFACE

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

Mark 2.1-12 (NKJV)

1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. **2** Immediately 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. **3** Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. **4** And 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. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." **6** And 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?" **8** But 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? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** But 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." **12** Immediately 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!"

INTRODUCTION

1. Throughout his gospel account of the life of Jesus, Mark wants to **jolt** his readers into an understanding of who Jesus is.
 1. He moves very quickly through the life & ministry of Jesus...
 2. He begins w/ an announcement + straight to the point of who Jesus is.
2. Remember w/ me how the book opens —
 1. MK 1.1 — **1** This is the **Good News** about Jesus the **Messiah**, the **Son of God**.
 2. Packed into this very 1st verse — Mark PROCLAIMS 3 powerful truths that the Gospel of Mark unpacks
 1. This is the **Good News** about Jesus
 1. The word we translate to *Good News* or "gospel" is from a GK word — *evangelion*.
 2. This word was often used by those making proclamations about the emperor — the ruler
 3. So, if Mark is saying that there is an *evangelion* about Jesus —
 1. This language is intended to **startle**... to **jolt**... to **awaken** those in the 1st-century & us
 2. Jesus is royalty— Jesus is KING... not anything less...
 3. The Bible gives us a fuller explanation in that Jesus is the KING of kings...
 4. In Revelation 19.16 Jesus is given the full title "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"
 1. Meaning, He has the power to exercise absolute dominion over all His realm.
 2. In the end, all other rulers will be conquered, & He alone will reign supreme as King & Lord of all the earth. There is no power nor anyone who can oppose Him & win.
 4. Mark doesn't just open up His gospel w/ a description, but a declaration — Here's JESUS — the GOOD NEWS about HIM...
 5. What's the declaration/proclamation? — He's royalty... He's King... He's the KING of Kings...

2. Jesus is the MESSIAH

1. God promised the Jews a Messiah

1. As a prophet, he would speak on God's behalf as powerfully as Moses did.

2. As a king, come from the lineage of David & establish a kingdom that would last forever.

2. The Messiah was one who would defeat God's enemies + restore the Jews to God

3. Mark's startling/jolting ANNOUNCEMENT about JESUS:

1. He's royalty... He's King... He's the KING of Kings....

2. He is the Messiah — numerous prophecies & types in the OT set the stage for... Third...

3. Jesus is the SON of God

1. What do you mean? Like the offspring of God... one of many sons?

2. **(PP)** David Guzik: *Some people think when Jesus is called **the Son of God** it is a way of saying He is not God, but something less than God. But in those days, to be called the "son of" something meant you were totally identified with that thing or person, and their identity was your identity. When Jesus called Himself the Son of God, and when others called Him that, it was understood as a clear claim to His deity.*

3. This is the declaration of Mark —

1. Jesus is royalty... He's King... He's the KING of Kings...

2. Jesus is the Messiah — the one who has been promised...

3. Jesus is the SON of God

4. What's His message?

3. **V15** *"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"*

1. This is the central message of Jesus — that the time that God has promised — His kingdom — is NOW

2. This is explosive language filled w/ tons of meaning & implications in those days. What does this mean?

1. The people were waiting for

1. The King, the one who would come from David (2 Samuel 7:8-17).

2. A ruler who would bring everlasting peace & the knowledge of God to the entire world (Isa 11:1-9)

2. Now, Jesus comes & says the time promised has come! Understandably, this brought great excitement.

3. Life Application Bible Notes:

1. **(PP)** *The Kingdom of God began when God entered history as a human being. But the Kingdom of God will not be fully realized until all evil in the world has been judged and removed.*2. **(PP)** *Christ came to earth first as a Suffering Servant; he will come again as King and Judge to rule victoriously over all the earth. The Kingdom was as near as people's willingness to make Jesus king over their lives.*

3. The Kingdom of God is near... it's starts now as you surrender to Him.

4. Repent of your sins & believe the Good News

1. Come to Him... come under His rule + reign in your life — leaving your old life/stepping into His.

2. Believe — *It was an appeal not only to accept it as an intellectually accurate statement; but to rest in it, to*

repose in it. It was a call to let the heart find ease in it.”

4. This is what we see throughout the Gospel of Mark
 1. Jesus is: King, Messiah, He is God
 2. His kingdom — His rule & reign — begins in your life now as you repent/believe
5. And so far in CH1 we've seen nothing but the undeniable authority of Jesus on display:
 1. It was by the
 1. OT prophets & by his wild forerunner in the wilderness — John the Baptist (v2-8)
 2. And even by the FATHER & the SPIRIT at His baptism by John the Baptist... (v9-11)
 3. That Jesus — is **AFFIRMED, VALIDATED, PRONOUNCED, DECLARED, CERTIFIED** to be the **ONE** of whom a **ROYAL** announcement is made — this is the **MESSIAH**... this is **GOD** in the flesh!
 2. He was tested by the enemy — He comes out victorious (v12-13)
 3. He calls His 1st disciples ... casts out demons, heals many ppl ... the whole town is showing up to Peter's mother-in-law's house... and as it says in v34 *Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons...*
 4. Jesus actually touches a man who has leprosy... NO ONE does that in His day... & He heals the man...
6. Things are dynamic in the life & ministry of Jesus, His undeniable authority & power as the King, Messiah, & God are garnering a lot of attention — v45 ... *large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to him.*
7. Now in chapter 2 we see conflict arise... in fact, Mark highlights 5 consecutive stories in CH's 2 & 3 showing the conflict between Jesus & the established Jewish religious leaders. Look at ch 2 once again w/ me:

Mark 2.1-12 (NKJV)

1 And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately 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.

1. Now remember, the setting of this scene is in the 1st century in the Middle East...
 1. Rome is the dominant power of the world at the time
 2. And relatively ... the world is living in a time of peace — a time known as Pax Romana
 3. And the city of Capernaum is mentioned...
 1. A city located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.
 2. The home of Peter & Andrew; it's where Jesus found Matthew, a tax collector, & called him to follow.
 3. Became the chosen home city of Jesus after He was driven from Nazareth by the religious officials
 4. Capernaum was a fishing community — perhaps 1,500ppl/residents living there during this time.
 5. You can picture many in that city... brothers, cousins, business partners... daily going onto their boats & casting their nets to sell in the market.
 6. But, also there was a synagogue there... and many of the religious leaders would be in the area of Capernaum — where Jesus was very active.

2. As Jesus is back in this fishing community... it's kinda of a hub for commerce
 1. People begin to hear that He's back in town...
 2. Now, remember this is the 1st century...
 1. No electricity... when the sun comes up & down... that kind of sets the parameters of your day
 2. Not similar to our culture in the kind of entertainment or comforts that we have at our fingertips...
 3. If you want to catch up on what's happening — we just grab a device, cup of coffee, from our home — stay connected & informed on anything we want...
 4. Not in that day... Jesus is in town... and ppl are crowding to wherever He is...
3. V2 tells us that the house that Jesus was in... was PACKED!
 1. What does that mean, packed?
 2. **(PP)** photo of P'Cola Beach last yr at a Blue Angel Air Show...
 3. Well... the longest span excavated of homes discovered during this time is about 18ft...
 4. So the capacity of an average home may have allowed for 50ppl... maybe... maybe 75ppl... out the door.
4. There has to be a tremendous amount of anticipation, almost adventurous sensation for those who are there...
 1. Jesus is in town...
 2. *“Did you hear about His baptism??? ... the voice from heaven... the Spirit of God coming down like a dove “*
 3. *“I heard that He was in the wilderness for 40 days... didn't eat a thing...”*
 1. *“He had a sparring match with the devil — and He won!*
 2. *Wild animals were out there... angels from heaven were helping him...”*
 4. *“I heard that he's cast demons out of ppl... that ppl have been sick... for years... and just at the word of Jesus... they've been healed.”*
 5. *“There's even a story going around that He touched a leper... a LEPER... and Jesus healed him.”*
 6. *“Look over there... there's Peter's mother-in-law... she was healed by Jesus... and now there she is... doing what she always does... making sure all the guests in this place have food/drink...”*
 7. *“This is amazing...” — I wonder what work/miracle/spectacle Jesus is going to perform today?!”*
5. And what does the end of v2 tell us? *And He preached the word to them.*
 1. Church this is something to take note of...
 1. Jesus came to be the SAVIOR of the world — that's His primary purpose
 2. But during His earthly ministry... before the cross — what was His focus?
 3. Was it the miraculous? Signs & wonders?
 2. Jesus was not a miracle worker who occasionally preached, but a preacher who occasionally healed.
 1. **(PP)** *“It is clear that he was avoiding the streets because they had been turned into a healing campaign. Everywhere he went people besieged him with requests for healing and the casting out of demons, so that he was unable to do what he had come to do primarily, which was to preach the Word.”* Ray Stedman
 2. Preaching the Word — sharing with the ppl who God was from the OT Scriptures
6. It's in this setting of a wall to wall crowd... that's out the door... listening to Jesus teach... that the story develops...

3 *Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.*

1. 5 Guys come to this house... and 1 of them can't walk... he's a paralytic.
 2. Now, we don't know much about these 5 guys... how are they connected? Co-workers... maybe... maybe not if one of is paralytic... how would a paralyzed man be connected to these men in a work setting?
 3. Maybe they're a mixture of family (brothers/cousins)... we'll call them — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus
 1. I mean maybe grandma heard that Jesus — a miracle worker is in town — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus — take Matt to Jesus... IDK...
 2. But, what we do know is that these 4 companions are taking this man to Jesus — and he needs to be healed...
 4. And remember, this is the 1st century...
 1. To be paralyzed would bring tremendous daily struggle
 2. The ability to get around, to work, to have a family... must've been a challenge... if not impossible....
 5. But also remember that this is the Jewish 1st century context...
 1. One Bible commentator (Morris) writes: *"It was widely held that suffering... was due to sin. The general principle was laid down by Rabbi Ammi: 'There is no death without sin, and there is no suffering without iniquity.'"*
 1. No suffering w/out iniquity... whose iniquity?
 2. One of the greatest challenges of the Jewish religious mindset was that it could be influenced from sources outside of Scripture
 3. Mishnah & Talmud — commentaries from Jewish rabbis that some put on par w/ Scripture:
 1. Some believed in the pre-existence of souls, & that those pre-existent souls could sin.
 2. Some believed that a baby might sin in the womb.
 3. Or that birth defects were due to sinful behavior of one's parents.
 2. Now, in the 21st century we know that there are cases/instances that behaviors of parents can have emotional/physical impacts upon a child.
 3. And that sin does have consequences... that ... in general is why we have a world not as it was created to be.
 4. The sin of Adam set the principle of death & destruction in the world ... & we have had to deal with it ever since.
 6. But, maybe set yourself in the sandals of these 5 men...
 1. Not only was there physical + financial difficulty w/ being a paralyzed man...
 2. But, perhaps the social, emotional, & even spiritual weight of it... could've have been overwhelming...
 3. They finally get to the house... & it's too crowded... they can't get in to see Jesus... look as it says in v4
- 4 And 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.*
1. Now at 1st reading this might sound CRAZY... so they can't get in... let's take the roof off!
 1. Can you imagine something like that happening today?
 2. Can't get in to church... a concert... take the roof off...
 2. Well, as I mentioned earlier, homes weren't large, their roofs could function as outdoor living spaces, like a patio/deck
 1. This is just an artistic rendering, but archaeological findings suggest that a common Capernaum home could've looked something like this... (**PP**) — a simple home structure w/ & outdoor stairway to the roof...
 2. So these 4 men — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus — grab Matt & take the outside staircase up to the flat rooftop.

1. Roof was made of wood beams, cross-laid w/ branches... packed w/ a thick layer of grass, mud, & clay.
2. They could easily walk on it... & dig through it.
3. The men “unroofed” the roof... that’s how the original language describes this...
 1. This wasn’t a quiet... unnoticed thing... in the middle of Jesus’ sermon
 2. People are probably dodging sticks & sneezing on dirt + debris... trying get out of the way of pieces of clay as Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus are lowering Matt on his mat... to be front & center before Jesus...
 3. And I doubt it was a flawless procedure
 1. It wasn’t like Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus — had an LLC — “Unroof w/ Rufus & the Gang”
 2. This wasn’t a highly calculated/precise operation — (PP) Don’t think of Mission Impossible....
 3. But, probably more like
 1. Gus shouting to Willie ... “drop your corner a little lower ... he’s tipping...”
 2. Bobby to Rufus... “Your line is caught on a piece of clay...”
 3. As Matt is on a mat... dangling down before Jesus...
4. V5 tells us that Jesus — **5** *Seeing their faith...*
 1. You wonder what Jesus’ facial expressions/demeanor was like as He & all in the house are witnessing this.
 2. I mean have you ever been giving a Bible Study or in a connect group or giving some sort of presentation
 1. And there’s an interruption
 2. In our day... it’s not the roof coming off... but the infamous cell phone... right??? ...
 3. Have you ever had that happen? Maybe you’re not the one giving the Bible Study... maybe you’re the one with the cell phone going off...
 1. And it never fails... if it’s you... you’re phone is ringing... isn’t it amazing how most of us initially go
 2. Whose phone is that? Couldn’t be mine...
 3. And then when you do realize that it’s yours... it’s like all sense of how to turn off your phone immediately leaves you :-)
 3. Well... Jesus sees their faith... whose faith?
 1. The text doesn’t say explicitly...
 2. Most likely it’s not just Matt’s as he’s being lowered on the mat... I mean that took some faith...
 3. But the faith of these 4 guys — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus... the front door wasn’t open... so they made a way for their friend to get to Jesus... let me say this about their faith:
 1. Their faith was Confident — if we can just get him in front of Jesus
 2. Their faith was Compassionate — they deeply cared about their friend
 3. Their faith was Creative — resourceful, scrappy — they had to find another door
 4. Their faith was Contagious — their faith affected Jesus & this man
 4. Look at v5 w/ me again...
- 5** *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”*
 1. Jesus speaks very endearingly to this man... not get out of here... what are you doing? ... but, my child... or my son... your sins are forgiven...

2. This is an interesting response

1. What do think some of those who were present were thinking?

1. Matt — our paralyzed man — may have thought there was sin in his life & maybe that's why he was paralyzed. These words of Jesus could've come a source of refreshment to him.
2. The 4 Friends — Gus shouting from the roof... "Jesus... uhhh... that's not why we're here... he's paralyzed..." Bobby — "Yeah, Jesus if you could do something about his ability to get out off that mat... we lowered him down... but getting back up ... idk if we can do that..."
3. The owner of the home — checking w/ Jesus' disciples to see if they incident insurance for the roof
4. Disciples thinking — Jesus is going to be looking for some better ushers at the door for our next service...
5. The crowds — just amazed... did Jesus just say... your sins are forgiven... aren't there some of our religious leaders here... what are they thinking?

2. But, Jesus speaks to this man's greatest need

1. There are worse things than not being in good health.
2. This can be a hard thing for some of us to swallow —
 1. Really his greatest need is spiritual?
 2. Have you seen him?
3. You know sometimes we need to take God's Word on faith b/c it's God's Word
 1. Think of it this way... you can feel fine physically... as though everything is tip/top shape.
 2. But, you can go in for a physical check up & the doctor can spot something that you don't...
 3. You can feel great... but really have something major... some real problems going on in your body
 4. You need to believe the doctor no matter how you feel.
4. Sometimes we may read the Bible or hear a preacher & speak about sin... & our temptation is think comparatively ... well, my problems are not that big of a deal?
5. But, here's the reality — we NEED Jesus to be our spiritual physician — we need forgiveness!

3. So Jesus speaks to this man's GREATEST need — his need to be forgiven before/above the ability to be given the ability to walk.

4. Now, the crowded room must have been thinking... this is exciting... what's going to happen next? But, the religious leaders... here we have the 1st recorded opposition to Jesus in the Gospel of Mark...

6 *And 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?"*

1. Now throughout the Gospels, we constantly see Jesus & the religious leaders at odds w/ Jesus.

1. Be it b/c of jealousy, or fear of what the Romans might do if they threw their support behind a King of Jews
2. Or b/c they were strictly outwardly religious ... w/ a hard-hearted disposition to God & others...

2. But there's something happening here that I want to point out...

1. 3 things that religious leaders did right & 1 thing they did wrong that soured the 3 things they did right.
2. 3 Good Things
 1. They were checking out Jesus of Nazareth, to validate or discredit him

1. This is a good thing... you don't want to just believe everything that's popular
2. Like we see in Acts 17... **(PP)** ... *believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. 12 As a result, many Jews believed, as did many of the prominent Greek women and men.*
3. Check everything w/ Scripture... Jesus is in town teaching... & the religious leaders are seeking to see if He aligns w/ Scripture.
2. They were reasoning in their hearts — a good thing — we should be doing this, being an active listener
3. They correctly analyzed the situation... Jesus said “Your sins are forgiven” — they knew only God can forgive sins... this is true!
 1. When I sin against you... I am also sinning against God.
 2. We still need to have forgiveness from God...
 3. There is an important dimension of forgiveness that only God can deal with.
 4. Compensating good deeds do not forgive our sins.
 1. All the times you stopped at the red light, & didn't pull a U-Turn on HWY 98 that no longer has medians, or obeyed the speed limit — would mean nothing to an officer who stops you & tickets you for not doing one of those things, 1x.
 2. Wishful thinking // good intentions // time // forgetfulness // success // we ourselves — these things do not absolve us of sin.
 3. How are sins forgiven — **1 JN 1.8** *If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. 9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*
3. So, the scribes, the religious leaders were doing some things well — here's what they did wrong — they weren't coming w/ an open heart... but a predetermined disposition in their hearts... this perspective poisoned them.

8 *But 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?”*

1. This guy reads our hearts? — Now, we'll come back to this... obviously this speaks to Jesus' divinity.
2. Don't you think this should have changed them, awakened them a bit? — Jesus goes on to say —

9 *Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?*

1. This is a really interesting question.
 1. Spiritual answer — easier to be healed than for sins to be forgiven/think of all that Jesus had to do to 4give sin.
 2. Physical answer — it's a much more difficult thing to heal the paralysis than to say — your sins are forgiven.
 3. What do you mean?
2. You know by the grace of God & good automotive engineering, I've been driving my 2002 Toyota 4Runner for yrs
 1. It's been such a faithful ride... it's the ride my bride & I had the clause “Just Married” tagged on the back

window as we rode away from our wedding ceremony & now as I have a 14yr old... she's eyeing it... thinking about her next 1yr or 2yr she's asking about it :-)

2. But, you know when there's something going on w/ it that I need be to aware of... a little light comes on... and stays on... it is a 2002 vehicle.
 3. But... when your sins are forgiven there's not a notification light that clicks on visibly for others to see...
 4. When your sins are forgiven, it's a very real thing... but not physical in the sense that those scribes/leaders could validate on the spot.
3. Jesus says something here that fits w/ what Mark does in this Gospel linguistically to **startle... to jolt... to awaken** those in the 1st-century & us to who Jesus is... look at how Jesus describes himself in v10

10 *But 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.”*

1. Jesus makes a dramatic announcement in v10 — the **Son of Man** has the authority to forgive sins!
 1. He is not just saying that God loves this person & can forgive... but that HE has the AUTHORITY to do this.
 2. This would be a hand-grenade in their hearts of these religious leader. MIC. DROPPED.
2. Jesus refers to Himself as “the Son of Man.”
 1. This title is found 81x in the Gospels. Why did Jesus use this term so often, & what did He mean by it?
 1. Sometimes Jesus shows Himself to be the Son of Man who is serving or even as one who came to suffer.
 2. Jesus also refers to Himself the Son of Man who is coming in glory.
 2. See, in the Old Testament the term is used in several different ways.
 1. In Psalm 144, it simply means “human being.”
 2. However, in Daniel 7 it refers to One who will come to establish God's kingdom.
 3. Jesus uses the title to refer to Himself with both connotations.
 1. As a human being (God Incarnate) He identifies w/ sinful humanity as He serves & suffers on our behalf.
 2. As God, He is the coming Lord of glory.
 4. **(PP)** *Jesus avoided the term “Christ” (Messiah) because He was a much different kind of Messiah from what the Jewish nation anticipated in the first century. He first came to suffer, and then He would come in glory. Claiming the title “Son of Man” allowed Him to refer to the total scope of His Messianic mission without all the political overtones.*
3. This is an astounding thing about the Christian faith — don't lose the amazement of this — Jesus was a man who is GOD.
 1. Jesus paid the price — He was the “lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”
 2. Our sins are forgiven b/c God paid the price, His own life at the cross
 3. Forgiveness for that man, & for us is free!
4. Now, don't lose the suspense of the moment in the room...
 1. Jesus — identifying as the Son of Man says so that you can know that I have the power to forgive sins... He turns and looks to the paralyzed man... **ARISE...** take your bed... & go home.
 2. Can you imagine the atmosphere in the room?
 1. The owner of the home was tense — there's clay, grass, splinters of wood everywhere...
 2. The 4 friends were tense... probably physically & emotionally...

3. The religious leaders were tense — what is happening here???
4. The disciples... Imagine if Jesus would have failed.
5. The crowd senses all the tension
6. Jesus maybe... he was serene. ?

12 *Immediately 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!"*

1. This is a tremendous resolve to this moment.
 1. How did this man's body come back together — I have NO IDEA!
 2. The man had to put forth effort/energy to obey the command of Jesus.
 3. That man — our man, Matt — was both forgiven & healed.
2. The friends of this man — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus — their faith was rewarded.
3. The religious leaders — folded their arms more tightly.
4. The home owner — don't worry about the roof...
5. The crowd — fully amazed & glorifying God!

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION:

1. I think it's a fair question to ask — Where am I in this story? — A few options
2. You're not Jesus
 1. Jesus has authority to read our hearts — nothing is hidden from his eyes
 2. Jesus has authority to heal our sickness — Jesus speaks & disease is gone & demons run & death obeys
 1. Sin is the root of all disease, maladies, & death
 2. The Gospel is — trust in Jesus & your sins will be gone... then the root of suffering is severed ...
 1. The good news of the kingdom is not that Jesus will heal of all your diseases now, but that He will destroy the root of sin & death
 2. Cancer, tumors, Alzheimer's will not have the last word... death has been defeated by the Son of Man... He will have the last word
 3. **(PP)** *Joni Eareckson Tada ...I always say that in a way, I hope I can take my wheelchair to heaven with me—I know that's not biblically correct, but if I were able, I would have my wheelchair up in heaven right next to me when God gives me my brand new, glorified body. And I will then turn to Jesus and say, "Lord, do you see that wheelchair right there? Well, you were right when you said that in this world we would have trouble, because that wheelchair was a lot of trouble! But Jesus the weaker I was in that thing, the harder I leaned on you. And the harder I leaned on you, the stronger I discovered you to be. So thank you for what you did in my life through that wheelchair. And now," I always say jokingly, "you can send that wheelchair to hell, if you want."*
3. Maybe the person you are most like is the man who is paralyzed — problems in life — but, your greatest problem is your SIN problem... you may not feel this... but the Spirit of God is speaking this to you — I need to be made right with God. The Holy Spirit of God is speaking to your heart... and inviting you to respond — COME to JESUS & JESUS will forgive your sin.

4. Maybe, if your honest you identify w/ the Religious Leaders
 1. You've talked yourself into an excessive skepticism of the Christian faith.
 2. It's okay to reason in your hearts... but where you are... your mindset is poisoned by preconceived prejudices.
 3. Demanding that Jesus play by your rules — in all LOVE... you need to REPENT!
5. Maybe you identify w/ the Friends — you are believing God to work in the life of your friends and family... maybe you feel weary in holding the ropes for your friends.... Don't let go of that rope till the Lord answers.
 1. Their faith was Confident — if we can just get him in front of Jesus
 2. Their faith was Compassionate — they deeply cared about their friend
 3. Their faith was Creative — resourceful, scrappy — they had to find another door
 4. Their faith was Contagious — their faith affected Jesus & this man
 5. Hang in there!
6. Maybe it's the Capernaum Crowd — you wanna hang on the sidelines... *“isn't that amazing what Jesus does”*...
 1. Capernaum is interesting — Jesus performed many miracles in there...
 1. Healed the Centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)
 2. Healed Peter's Mother-in-law (Mark 1:30-31)
 3. Cleansed the man w/ the unclean spirit (Luke 4:33-35)
 4. Healed the woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years (Mark 5:25-34)
 5. Raised the 12yr old daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:41)
 2. It was in Capernaum:
 1. Peter caught a fish w/ money in it's mouth that paid for he & Jesus' taxes (Matthew 17:24-27)
 2. At the synagogue that Jesus spoke of He being the bread of life (John 6:1-59)
 3. Jesus had this to say to the people of Capernaum b/c they did not follow Him — **Matthew 11:23** *“And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. 24 I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you.”*
7. Whether it's...
 1. Matt — the paralyzed man — who had a need forgiveness w/out even knowing it
 2. Religious Leaders — poisoned by preconceived prejudices
 3. Four Friends — Gus, Willie, Bobby, & Rufus— w/ confident, compassionate, creative, contagious faith — hang in there, don't let go of that rope on behalf of your friend/family member!
 4. Capernaum Crowd — just want to be a bystander... but there are no bystanders w/ Jesus...
8. May we all draw close to Jesus this morning...
 1. The Son of Man
 2. The One who was authority to know our hearts, heal our sickness, & save us from our sins!