

Mark 2:1-12 – Same Faith for Salvation and Service

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus never taught dispensationalism 时代论. People in the Old Testament weren't saved by keeping the law or in some other way.

Today you will see how Old Testament believers had the same faith 信心— spiritual hands that received God's blessings. This same faith came through the same Gospel (that Jesus would die for sinners), and that it would incorporate them into the same church as Old Testament saints.

Our headings are:

Jesus Resumes his preaching to produce faith

Jesus Rewards the faith of a man and his friends

Jesus Rebukes the Scribes (文士) for being faithless

Our goals are: **That you'll see faith, faith that comes through preaching, is the only means of salvation and service.**

Jesus Resumes his preaching to produce Faith

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. Jesus returned to Capernaum, which was home base for his ministry (事工). Capernaum means "village of comfort." It was the place where the Jordan flowed in the Sea of Galilee. It was great for fishing-for fish and men.

2. And what was Jesus' main work at his home base? Preaching the Gospel! The people were excited initially with the miracles – seeing the very sick healed and the demon possessed set free, but now they knew there were more important things. They needed miracles in the heart. The people needed to have faith, faith which comes through the preaching of the Word. Jesus' feet came ready with the preparation of the Gospel.

Isaiah 52:7 How **beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news,** Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation...

3. As Jesus preached, his message started to resonate (引起共鸣) in some.

4. Though Jesus had not yet died on the cross, yet he was preaching to produce faith. This was always how it was – even in the Old Testament! This is what Jonah preached to Nineveh! Jesus did not have to die first. People had to believe that he would die. So Adam was a Christian also. God's promises were as good as done! They were sure.

Acts 13:26 "Men and brethren, **sons of the family of Abraham,** and those among you who fear God, to you **the word of this salvation has been sent.**

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, **foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,** preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

5. Lessons:

a. Pray that people might desire to hear the preaching of the Word of God rather than have their ears tickled by a candy-coated (糖衣包裹的) Gospel. All people of all other religions are lost. Help them to get the Gospel.

b. Pray that God's people might not be taken up with miracles, but rather, focus on faithful teaching of the Word. Can God do miracles today? Yes, he can do miracles anytime. But most of the people who pretend to do miracles are frauds (骗子). This is why hospitals are so filled. Bring the Word of God to the lost.

c. Personally now, how do you respond to the preaching of the Word of Christ? Do you sometimes say: I can't wait for the sermon to be done? Or do you see the word of God as a means of having deep conversation with God on a most personal level? If you want to grow as a Christian, you will love the preaching of the Word.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,** I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Jesus rewards the Faith of a man and his friends

3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic (瘫子) 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.**"

1. Four men of faith, four men of firm faith (Luke), brought a paralytic man to Jesus, for Jesus to heal him. These men did not come to be observers of Jesus- to see a great magician (魔术师) . **They came with faith – true confidence in the Savior (救主) . They were still OT believers, but they had faith in Jesus even before he died – like Abraham...and all the thousands of Hebrews 11. (Faith has an object.) They wanted their friend healed in order that he might work for the kingdom** – just like when the Lord had healed Peter's mother-in-law.

2. Because the house was filled and they could not get in, they uncovered the roof of the house where Jesus was preaching. This was quite an undertaking. This man was severely sick -a paraplegic. **How could they uncover a roof?** Surely they were not running the risk of huge bricks falling on the heads of people in the house by chipping away at bricks on the roof. (KJV-broke through – is wrong) **This most likely this was a roof door or a vent.** This was what the house was like: "This center room, or court, is commonly uncovered or open above. In wet weather, however, and in times of great heat of the sun, it is covered with an awning (布做的遮篷) or canvass (帆布) , stretched on cords (粗绳) , and capable of being easily removed or rolled up." So these 4 friends took the man up on the roof , a difficult undertaking, and rolled up or removed this covering.

3. Jesus saw the faith of the friends and the faith of the man who allowed himself to be brought to Jesus with much hardships, and Jesus pardoned the man's sin. He forgave his sin because **sin was at the root of his sickness.**

4. But don't miss the fact that this was Christ's child. Jesus called him "son."

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens (管教) , And scourges (鞭打) every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

This goes back to the covenant of redemption (救赎之约) between the Father and the Son. One is only part of that covenant of redemption (God's family) through blood – the blood of the covenant sacrifice – the blood of Jesus.

5. Lessons:

a. Faith and repentance go together. There is no faith without repentance. There is no repentance without faith. This means the preaching of the Word comes first. Don't expect a miracle then say you will believe. Don't tell the Lord if he gives you a job you will become a Christian. God doesn't make deals with (作交易) the wicked. Come believing... come as his child...and ask for what is good.

b. Will you bring someone to Christ? This is evidence of faith. When was the last time you invited someone? This is evidence of Christianity.

c. Sickness can be caused by sin, but not always. If you see sin in your life, repent.

Jesus rebukes the Scribes for being Faithless

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies (僭妄的话) like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

1. Some teachers who were there did not believe who Jesus was. They did not believe the testimony (见证) of the OT prophets. Surely they had no faith in him. So in their minds, when Jesus forgave the sins of the paraplegic, **they were convinced that Jesus was blaspheming (亵渎) .** (They ignored the great miracle he just did.) They believed he was blaspheming by assuming to himself a work that only God could do – forgive sins. **So to these men, Jesus was wicked and deserved to die for his claim.** Now if Christ weren't God, then they would be right to say he deserved death. (BTW, **you see some of this error that the scribes were concerned about in Rome's priests who assume to themselves the ability to forgive your sins.** They have no such power. They are usurping (篡夺) power.) **Look at what the Scriptures say about who can forgive.**

Isaiah 43:25 "I, **even I, am He who blots out your transgressions** for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

And the Apostle Paul confirmed that Jesus indeed was God – not just by his actions or what others confessed about him, but by direct revelation from the Father.

1Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh,** Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles (外邦人) , Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

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,

2. But further proving that he was indeed God, Jesus told them what they were thinking and exposed the foolishness of

what they were thinking. This question provided proof of Christ's deity (基督的神性) as well. Jesus did not deny their statement that only God could forgive sins. Rather, Jesus simply asserted that right, an indirect claim of Deity. Apostle Peter asserted that fact.

Acts 5:31 "Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and **forgiveness of sins.**

Further, telling the paralyzed man to get up and walk was also proof of his deity. He asked them what they would rather: Forgive the man's sin or tell him to get up and walk. Jesus' point was that these 2 things were the same thing. If he could make a man well, he could forgive his sin. If he could forgive sin, he could make a man well. The Christian man's sin caused him to be sick. **With the root caused removed, the man's healing could come.**

3. And yet Jesus taught of his humanity (人性); he called himself the "Son of Man." Literally, "Son of Adam." He had to come as man to fulfill what Adam failed to do.

Psalms 80:17 Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, **Upon the Son of Man whom** You made strong for Yourself.

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, **One like the Son of Man,** Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

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!"

4. Not hearing any challenge, Jesus then healed the man and told him to go home. And on cue (就在这个时候), the man rose, picked up his bed and walked out. Those who were there glorified (归荣耀于) God.

5. Lessons:

a. Jesus Christ was both God and man, both natures being necessary for your salvation. He did not shy away from acknowledging both natures and neither should you.

b. Miracles (神迹) do not make people believe, otherwise you would have seen the Scribes believing. They didn't. Rather, miracles were done to strengthen the faith of Christ's children, making them trust his words more. So read and teach of Christ's miracles often.

c. Because Jesus made the conscience (良知, 良心) and knows the conscience, the can clean the conscience as well. Those who rely upon psychotherapy (心理治疗) to clear the conscience can only create a mask. Only the work of Jesus on the cross – only his blood- can cleanse your conscience permanently.

Conclusion:

Jesus preached to produce faith in the hearers. You see success in his preaching as the men and the paraplegic who came to him had faith in Christ alone. And **they moved from saving faith to serving faith.** They wanted the sick man to be healed and work for the kingdom. Their faith produced works – like all the OT Christians mentioned in Hebrews 11. But there were **some who had no faith in Christ** so their lives reflected that lack of faith.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Learn to dedicate time regularly to listening to the preached Word. This is the means of increasing your faith and be able to serve the Lord better.

2. Promote and support the preaching of the Word so others can hear and be saved.

3. What is that Word? Jesus came into the world to save sinners through his life and death on the cross.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, know for sure that you will meet a tragic end: eternity in hell. If you want to be saved from eternal fire, and yes, hell is eternal fire, then you must believe that Jesus satisfied God's anger against sinners by enduring hellish suffering, and ask God to count Christ's death as yours.