



Forgiveness of Sins

Mark 2.1-17

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1

1



Jesus: Action Man?

- Sense of urgency:
 - 'immediately' or 'at once'
 - too busy to eat (6.31)
- Need to focus on mission statement:
 - 'That is why I have come' (1.38b)
 - Preaching the Gospel (1.14-15, 38^a,39; 2.2,13)

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2



Two pegs:

- The priority of forgiveness
 - "Son, your sins are forgiven" (2.5b)
- Forgiveness is a mighty power
 - "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (2.17)

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3



1. The Priority of Forgiveness

- “My son, you sins are forgiven”
- Irrelevant, impertinent, insensitive?
- Link sin-sickness (John 9.1-12)
 - psychosomatic
 - barrier of worldview
 - sudden sense of guilt
 - or ...
- One gift more precious than the other

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4



The Identity of the Forgiver

- Outrage because of blasphemy
- Jesus exercising authority over
 - sickness, evil, forces of nature, death, divine-human relationships
- On what basis is this man forgiven?
- Which is easier to say? (2.9)

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5



Mark: contents & structure

King: Jesus' identity
Chapters 1 – 8

Cross: Jesus' mission
Chapters 9 - 16

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6



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

- Levi: from traitor to evangelist
- I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners (2.17b)
- Who are the righteous, the sinners and the “sinners” ?
- Conversion more than behaviour modification; forgiveness more than pardon

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7



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colosians 1.13-14)

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8



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

Two things that happen at regeneration:

- a. No difficulty in saying: “God be merciful to me a sinner”

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9



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable.

(Anglican BCP)

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10



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

Two things that happen at regeneration:

- a. No difficulty in saying: "God be merciful to me a sinner"
- b. Quite unwilling to trust in our own righteousness

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11



2. Forgiveness is a mighty power

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

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12
