

Life Application Notes: Jesus Talks 1 – Mark 2:1-12

“So that you might know”

Introduction

This week we are starting our summer series through the gospel of Mark. Each week we will be diving into a different situation where Jesus speaks – sometimes healing, other times rebuking, but the whole time teaching the disciples (and us!) more about who he is and what the character of God is like.

One of the themes we will see in these studies is that Jesus greatly dislikes empty or dead religion – we see this in the way that the Pharisees act and respond to Jesus. In our culture today we can see almost the reverse problem. We can see a great amount of spirituality, however much of it is untethered from an active God.

In these passages Jesus shows that our God isn't distant or silent – he speaks loud and clear!

Digging In

Read Mark 2:1-12 together.

This passage is an excellent introduction to Jesus! Even at the start of Jesus's ministry it doesn't take long for him to draw a crowd of people.

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son your sins are forgiven””

- What is our first reaction when we encounter sickness or injustice around us?
- What is so distinctive about the faith of the paralysed man's friends? (hint – it is their determination! Their faith is shown to be strong even such that they will tear apart a roof to bring their friend to Jesus)

Jesus has compassion on the paralysed man. But his first action is to attend to the man's spiritual health. At this time earthly suffering was seem to be part of the punishment for sin. Jesus's reaction to faith here is identical to that of us when we have faith in him – through faith comes forgiveness! At the heart of what Jesus offers, is the forgiveness of sins!

“I want you to know that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins”

- What is Jesus's reaction to the Pharisees?
- Why do you think Jesus reacted in the way he did? (v8)

Jesus has the authority (see Matthew 28, Colossians 1:15-23).

- Are there people in your life who are sceptical of who Jesus truly is? (keep these people in mind to pray for at the end)
- Who do they say Jesus is?

Jesus wanted even his sceptics (such as the Pharisees) to know that he wasn't just a 'good man' or a 'wise teacher' – but the Son of God!

“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home”

Jesus speaks and people are healed. Jesus shows his power and authority – something of the kingdom of God – of a God which is near! A few weeks ago Chris challenged us to pray for the miraculous, rather than just offering “paracetamol and sympathy”.

- In what ways can we be more open to God working through the miraculous?

“This amazed EVERYONE...”

Even the sceptics were amazed by what Jesus did! This is great news for everyone – God is in the business of transformation.

Rounding Off

In the coming weeks we will be looking more at key situations where Jesus shows a present God – one who speaks with power and authority and who still speaks to us today.

Spend some time to pray together for:

- **Boldness in sharing the transforming gospel of Jesus – both with healing and the forgiveness of sins!**
- **Those you know who are sceptical – that they would see that Jesus was not just a man but also the Son of God.**
- **Both physical and spiritual healing for our neighbours, the city, the country, and the world.**