

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Our Greatest Need, Only Solution, & Ultimate Hope

Main Idea

Divine forgiveness is our greatest need and Jesus is our only solution.

Overview

God's Word Exposes our Greatest Need

1. The primary purpose of Jesus ministry was to preach the word (cf. 1:15; 38; 2:2)
 - a. Preaching the word, healing the sick, and casting out demons are all important, but not all equal
 - b. Message is 'Repent & Believe' and not merely 'Come & See'
2. The paralytic and his four friends were men of faith
3. Jesus exposes the paralytic's deepest need – divine forgiveness
 - a. Jesus is not equating sin to physical suffering (cf. Job, John 9)
 - b. Jesus is diagnosing the very reason why there is any death, disease, cancer, etc. in the world

God's Son, Jesus is our Only Solution & Ultimate Hope Exposes

1. Only God can forgive sins (cf. Is. 43:25; Daniel 9:9; Micah 7:18)
 - a. Sin is first and foremost against God
 - b. We are made by God, dependent upon God, therefore accountable to God
2. Jesus forgives the paralytic of his sins
 - a. Jesus is not just making a factual statement but performing a divine action
 - b. Scribes charge him with blasphemy, which was punishable by death (cf. Lv. 24:16)
3. Jesus has the authority to forgive sins because he is the Son of Man
 - a. Jesus is calling attention to himself as the Son of Man prophesied about in Daniel 7:13-14
 - b. Jesus uses this same "Son of man" language in Mark 8:31 to predict his death, burial, & resurrection
 - c. Jesus has authority to forgive sins because (1) he is God and (2) he paid for those sins
4. Jesus proves his authority by showing his miraculous power
 - a. Jesus is not saying all afflictions will be healed in this lifetime
 - b. Jesus is providing a glimpse into the kingdom of God that he mentioned back in 1:14-16
 - c. Jesus is pointing us to a world in the way it is supposed to be (Rv. 21:3-5)

Questions

1. Think back to the latest magazine you have read or commercial you have seen. What are some of the things that being presented as individual or societal needs? What is the significance that all around us we are being told of our needs?
2. God's word exposes our deepest need. Why should we listen to God's 'diagnosis' of us rather than culture's diagnosis of us?
3. In verse 5 the text says Jesus "saw their faith." What is faith? How can you see faith? What are the implications of this verse in your walk with Christ?
4. Some might say Jesus is not actually forgiving sins, but only pronouncing them forgiven like the priests in the Old Testament. How would you respond?
5. Why can only God forgive sins? What is Jesus claiming by forgiving sins? Why can Jesus forgive sins?
6. "Miracles are not so much a suspension of the natural order as they are a restoration of the natural order." Discuss this statement and its implications, both on how you might read the Bible and how you look at the world.
7. The crowd, scribes, and 4 men/paralytic all respond to Jesus in different ways? How do we see those ways mirrored in our culture (and perhaps even in our own lives)?