

**PP Beautiful Feet: The Good News Demonstrated**

**Part 5-Mark 2:1-12**

**4/27-28/2019**

We are going to begin by immediately reading in our passage, *“And when He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home.” 2:1*

Capernaum was the largest of the fishing towns on the Sea of Galilee, a 13 mile long by 8 mile wide freshwater lake

For perspective, *Lake Nockamixon* is 7 miles long, averaging ¼ to ½ mile wide

*Lake Wallenpaupack* is 13 miles long, and at its widest, 1 mile, and it is Pa’s third largest lake 1500 people lived in Capernaum which stretched over a mile of the northern shore of the lake Jesus grew up in Nazareth, but when He launched His ministry, He moved to Capernaum

**PP** *“And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali” Matthew 4:13*

It was where He called Peter, Andrew, John, James and Matthew to become His disciples

**2:1** finds Him *‘at home’* having been given a place to stay, which was often custom for rabbis Homes in Capernaum consisted of 3 or 4 single-story rooms surrounding a central courtyard, with walls made of basalt fieldstones, not well-dressed blocks of stone

The flat roofs commonly made from large wooden beams spanning wall to wall, 2-3 feet apart Across those beams were laid sticks and reeds, then covered by a mixture of grain, twigs, straw and dirt, usually all together 2 feet thick

Stone rollers packed it smooth for waterproofing, and over it were sometimes laid hard-baked tiles, and if not, grass was planted to cool the interior

Staircases were built along a courtyard wall to get to the roof, their place for social gatherings, where they’d often eat, catch the evening breeze, sleep in summer, and dry fruit and flax

With that background, let’s look at the our first point, **PP 1-The terrible life of a sufferer**

*“And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men.” 2:2-3*

All through the gospels we see pictures of suffering people

A widowed mother whose only child dies young; a leper who is called unclean and driven away as an outcast; a blind man, a lame boy, deaf people, demon-possessed people

The good news of Jesus however reaches deeper than the level of earthly suffering

It never ignores it, but it goes much deeper, because earthly suffering paints a deeper problem

All suffering reveals the awful, terrible effects of what sin does in God’s creation

Sin blinds eyes spiritually, muting praise to God, bringing spiritual, eventually physical death

Sin brings shame, deafens us to the words of God, paralyzing us from living life as it should be

Suffering is not natural a product of creation, it is purely a consequence of the fall

**PP** (Lantern Fly Pic) You may be aware that our county is under a quarantine for the Spotted Lanternfly, known to destroy fruit trees and grape vineyards

The fly however, is not native to PA, but was introduced to our area from parts of Asia

Similarly, sin is not native to God’s creation, and suffering was not part of God’s great work

**PP** (Gospel) God **created** a perfect world, yet Adam and Eve disobeyed Him and **fell** into sin Sin immediately corrupted every square inch of creation, particularly corrupting the human race

What, or more accurately Who, would set humanity free from the power and penalty of sin?  
 The **Redeemer** Who would free us is Jesus, Who came to ransom prisoners of sin and suffering  
 He continues to **restore** this broken world, and we participate in it as His people, longing for the  
 day of His return when He brings history to a close restoring all things to perfection

This redeeming, restoring work of Jesus is about to be exercised with a desperate man  
 He's paralyzed and four friends carried him on a mattress to the home where Jesus was  
 preaching

***"And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above  
 Him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the  
 paralytic lay." 2:4***

No one in the crowd had compassion, they would not move, so the friends came up with a plan  
 They climbed the stairs to the roof, dug through it, and lowered their friend down  
 I'm sure they had to run off and get the tools, and then grabbed the four corners of that mattress  
 and took him up to the roof, set him down and began to dig  
 Everyone below heard the footsteps, heard the pick axe breaking through the tiles, all while Jesus  
 was preaching as bits of debris begin to fall down, likely on His head

**PP** *'removed the roof'* literally means they unroofed the roof

Larger chunks fell, the men digging furiously before the owner could run up and stop them  
 I'm sure Jesus finally gave up preaching at this point, no one was listening to Him any longer  
 They opened a large hole and lowered their friend on his mattress down between the beams  
 He settles to the floor, looks up with a sheepish grin to what I'm sure is the smiling face of Jesus!

## **PP 2-The beautiful feet of the Savior**

***"And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'***

Jesus *'saw their faith'*, which undoubtedly includes the paralyzed man now helplessly on the  
 ground looking up in the face of Jesus

For these five men, all their hopes were pinned on Jesus, they needed a miracle of healing, but  
 Jesus knew, this man needed something much more than that

The rabbis had a saying, **PP** *"There is no sick man healed of his sickness until all his sins have  
 been forgiven him."*

The Jews had a sin/sickness theology...sickness was a displeased God dealing with personal sin  
 At times this is true, but not, after all, years of drunkenness shouldn't surprisingly yield a  
 diagnosis of liver cancer, and pathological lying often leads to divorce, unforgiveness to  
 depression

Yet not all suffering comes from personal sin as the Rabbis taught

However, all suffering does come from the fact that sin has come into creation

Jesus came to live, die and be raised to life, dealing with the penalty and power of sin

He did this by His grace and mercy

**PP** God's grace is His willingness to take away the penalty of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus

**PP** God's mercy is His willingness to begin to defeat the power and damage of sin in a believer  
 We are about to see both the grace and mercy displayed with this paralyzed man

Jesus said to him, ***'Son, your sins are forgiven.'***

He is saying to everyone, if you are going to believe that all sickness is from sin, then I will

remove that sin first, the display of divine grace  
 The proof that I removed that sin will be seen as I heal him of his misery for I came to remove the penalty and defeat the power of sin  
 Here is how Jesus could do this for this paralytic, and it is the same way for you and me  
**PP** *“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*  
 He is saying to this man and all hearers, *My death for your sins will bring you eternal life!*  
 He begins with His grace, to take away sin, and continues in His mercy to deal with the damage that sin caused: *“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” Mark 2:11*

There were some of those rabbis there in that house, they were called ‘scribes’  
 They had **PP** *‘come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem.’ Luke 5:17*  
 It was 80 miles from Jerusalem to Capernaum, like walking from downtown Easton by road to Wilmington, Delaware, a 3 day journey to the Jews who counted 25 miles a day’s walk  
 They are there sitting while everyone else had standing room only, out the door  
 It was Jewish custom for the teacher to sit on low pillows or a chair when teaching, while those listening sat on around him, known as *sitting at the feet of the rabbi*  
 The Apostle Paul said, **PP** *“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel...” Acts 22:3*  
 It was a posture of a humble learner, but it seems, that was not the attitude of the scribes  
 On the contrary, they sat there in judgment of Jesus and their verdict was immediate  
 They were stunned, then furious and their unspoken verdict was blasphemy, punishable by death  
 They were adamant, *‘Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ 2:7*  
 And they’re right, only God can forgive sins, and it’s the point Jesus would prove: He is God  
 But first, He gives these experts a theology lesson: *“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” 2:10*  
 The title that Jesus claimed for Himself more than any other was *‘the Son of Man’*, 81 x’s  
 We see it’s significance for Jesus in the book of Daniel: **PP** *“behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14*  
 Jesus is the *‘son of Man’*, He has dominion and glory forever, He is God in a human being  
 His grace and mercy to forgive sin and heal this man from sin’s consequence is the evidence!

Do you recall the first sermon of this series, the reason why it is called *‘Beautiful Feet’*?  
**PP** *“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace...who publishes salvation” Isaiah 52:7*  
 We are about to see just how beautiful the feet of Jesus are, in fact, there is something we need to see from **Mark 1:34** for a moment  
 It was just before this that Jesus was in Capernaum, when all the sick and demon-possessed were brought to Him, and He healed many sufferers that evening  
 Early that next morning, He told His disciples, *“Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” Mark 1:38*

The primary ministry of Jesus was preaching, not healing, He was more focused on eternal suffering than He was earthly suffering  
 Let us fix it in our minds now, any ministry, or good works that focuses more on the earthly need than the eternal need is not modeling the example of Jesus, and it will be done without His full power  
 How terrible would it be for Jesus to give this man his legs back, only for him to die decades later and suffer for eternity apart from God in the agony of hell  
 No, His grace will aim at this man's heart before His mercy restores his body

And to prove to their sin/sickness thinking that He can forgive sins, Jesus ***'said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.'*** And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ***"We never saw anything like this!"*** 2:10-12  
 Jesus is God, this man is forgiven, his body is restored!  
 He will die one day, and He will enjoy an eternity with God with no suffering ever again!

Joni Eareckson Tada, Christian author and quadriplegic said this on a radio show:  
*"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.'"*

Suffering can move you to lean on God and discover how strong He is  
 Jesus saw their faith, this man's included...and said, Yes, I will mercifully heal you, but my grace wants more than that...I want you to be saved!

I want to conclude this message on Beautiful feet with Three brief takeaways:

**PP** First, The power of God to transform lives comes by the Word of God  
 No ministry-personal or church-can be effective without the proclamation of God's Word...ever!  
 While the masses in Israel were clamoring for miracles, Jesus kept bringing them the message  
 In fact, miracles only served as evidence for God's Word: **PP** ***"And [the disciples] went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs."*** Mark 16:20

The greatest need of all people is peace with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and beautiful feet are those are bring that message to them

**PP** Second, religious people can be the biggest obstacle preventing others from getting to Jesus  
 We don't move for anyone, expecting people to adjust to our music, our programs, clean up their act before we will open the arms of mercy to them  
 Is the way you live your life a contradiction to your claim to be a Christian?  
 Are you reliable, your word true, your speech pure, your eyes where they should be?  
 Are you following after Christ, yielded to Him, or are you more like the scribes playing a wait

and see, more angry and enamored with Him  
I believe that for many of us, this event speaks to the need for our own repentance

**PP** Finally, when is the last time you were desperate that someone meets Jesus?  
The four friends demolished a roof to get their friend to Jesus  
What do you need to do in order for the same to happen to your friend or loved one?  
Perhaps risk your reputation, risk their rejection?  
Maybe it will cost you time and effort, requiring tremendous sacrifice for you and your family  
Are you willing to take that risk, make that sacrifice, pay the cost to bring that person to Jesus?

**PP** (all 3 on one slide) Are you supremely confident in the priority of God's Word?  
Are you a means and not an obstacle for people to find Christ?  
Are you desperate and loving to risk whatever the cost to make that happen?

Amen?

Pray