

Sermon Series: Who is this man?

{The Book of Mark}

Sermon Title: Bad People Make Good Soil. [Sermon #9]

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The Story of the Lost Coin {Luke 15}

There was a man in England who had a hundred sheep and lost one. He left the ninety-nine in the fields and went after the lost one until he found it. When he found it, he put it across his shoulders, rejoicing, and when he got home, called in his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!'

Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

The Story of the Lost Coin {Luke 15}

"There was old widow in China who had ten RMB coins and lost one. She turned on a light and searched all over the house, looking in every crack and corner until she found it. And the next morning when she went down to the market to buy some vegetables, she told her friends and neighbors: 'Let's drink some tea and have a meal! I found my lost coin!'

Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."

Pray

We transition today in the book of Mark to a new section where we see Jesus' actions and teachings bringing him into conflict with the religious teachers of his day.

MARK 2:1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² 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. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”** ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ **“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”** ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”** — he said to the paralytic — ¹¹ **“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”** ¹² 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!”

I want you to see a structure today that will help you see what is going on here in both passages.

I. The healing of the paralytic.

We are not going to focus on the man or the miracle as much as we want to focus on Jesus and what we can learn about him.

Jesus is the main character not the best supporting actor.

The man being healed is not the main character.

1. Jesus does something controversial. (v.5)

Jesus sees the faith of the ones bringing this man to be healed {and maybe the man’s faith too} and doesn’t respond with “You are healed of your paralysis.”

Instead, he says something strange.

He says, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Doesn't that sound weird?

Why does Jesus say this?

Well, sin is the cause of this man's paralysis one way or another.

Could possibly be due to the man's sinful actions but for sure is due to sin in general.

There would be no sickness or death if it were not for sin in general.

So, either way....sin is the cause.

Jesus could have JUST healed the man and he would've still died one day and gone to hell, if his sins weren't forgiven.

In that way, physical healing is pointless.

Jesus is always concerned with people's eternal problem, which is sin and not their temporary problem.

2. Question from the **RELIGIOUS TEACHERS** (v.7)

“Why does this man speak like that?

He is blaspheming!

Who can forgive sin but God alone?”

They are right.

They see immediately that Jesus says something wrong.

Only God can forgive sin.

Psalm 51:4

“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.”

So, Jesus must be blaspheming.

He could have been stoned right there.

{Leviticus 24:16}.

Jesus is claiming to be God & they understand that is exactly what he is saying.

3. Response by JESUS.

“Which is harder....to forgive sin (which only God can do) or heal someone and tell them to get up and walk?”

Which is harder?

It's much harder to forgive their sins.

***Key verse: v.10**

But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – he said to the paralytic “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

Here now we have the first time Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man.

This title, SON OF MAN is used 81 times in the gospels and Jesus loves to call himself this.

We need to look at **Daniel 7:13-14** to know what Jesus is referring to.

“I saw in the night visions, and 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.**”

Jesus: “I forgive your sin.”

Religious Leaders: “What...do you think your God?”

Jesus; “I am the one from Daniel..the Son of Man.” Yes, I am God & **I can forgive sin.**

He demonstrates this by healing a paralyzed man. The religious teachers are the ones who are truly paralyzed.

II. Eating with bad people.

¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Again, here is the pattern.

1. **Jesus does something controversial.** He eats with tax collectors, one of whom is Levi, whom he has just called to follow him.

2. **Question from the religious teachers:**
Why does Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?

Tax collectors were traitors.

They were hated.

They took more than they were supposed to.

They worked for the enemy.

They weren't even allowed to attend the synagogue.

Sinners refers to people who don't care about God or the law.

About the same as today.

They have pasts that people know all about.

Reputations for being bad people.

Jesus like these people.

He eats and drinks with them.

He shouldn't have been, according to the religious teachers.

If he was truly a Rabbi, he should know better.

3. **Response by Jesus: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

Jesus not only can forgive sin but loves to.

Jesus not only has authority to forgive sin but loves sinners.

The religious teachers are the ones who are truly sick, not the tax collectors and sinners.

They think they are well but they're not.

Application:

1. **Are we going to be like Jesus or like the religious teachers?**

This is one of **THE** great challenges for Christians.

This is one of **THE** great challenges for churches.

Are we going to invest our lives in the 99 or the 1?

Are we going to count the 9 coins or look for the 1?

Are we going to stay in HK or relocate our lives to a less reached place?

Are we going to spend our time and our resources on 'sinners' or on ourselves?

If we are not careful, we'll be like the pharisees and religious teachers.

We may think we are great Christians if we attend Bible studies, prayer meetings, church services and keep ourselves far away from beer, cigarettes, cursing, homosexuals, and all kinds of 'sinners' and sinful actions.

Simple question: Do you eat with sinners?

Simple question: Are you so busy being a Christian that you have no time for sinners?

Jesus can forgive sin.

We can't.

But Jesus does love sinners and we CAN follow him in doing that.

Bad people make good soil.

Let's spend our time brothers and sisters as Jesus did.