

Operation Christmas Child



Finding Jesus (Again)

A study in the gospel of Mark

Mark 2

¹ 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.

Mark 2

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."

Mark 2

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?"

Mark 2

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."

Mark 2

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!"

*What is interesting or
challenging in this story?*

Mark 2:1-12

The Paralytic

The Friends

Mark 2

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Hebrews

11

^{6b} for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

The Scribes

Mark 2

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Exodus 34:6

...merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...

Isaiah 55

“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the Lord, that he may have
compassion on him, and to our God, for he will
abundantly pardon.

Blasphemy

1. Speech that is defamatory of the Divine Majesty.



Blasphemy

1. Speech that is defamatory of the Divine Majesty.
2. Injurious speech about the Divine.



Ezekiel 34

1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.

Ezekiel 34

4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.

Ezekiel 34

15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice

Jesus

*“Why do you
question these things
in your hearts?”*

What is Jesus's tone?

God forgives those who call on Him
and delights to restore and renew
and pour out His blessing.

-Tim Gombis

Takeaways

1. Let's resist all forms of unforgiveness.
2. Let's grow our picture of a gracious God.
3. Let's exercise the faith that, if people come in contact with Jesus, something good will happen.