

This Way to Bringing Healing

“This Is The Way” Series – Part 04

Connect question: How do you share your God-given gifts with others?

Introduction: An office manager was complaining in their staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. The next day, he attached a small sign to his office door: ***“I'm The Boss!”*** Later that day, he returned from lunch to find that somebody had tape a note over his sign. It read, *“Your wife called. She wants her sign back.”*

How do you know when someone has true “authority”?

When is it necessary to “delegate” authority?

Does Jesus, the Master of Authority, delegate His authority and if He does, why would He?

Read

Mark 2:1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home.

Mark 2:2 Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them,

Mark 2:3 four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.

Mark 2:4 They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.

Mark 2:5 Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:6 But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves,

Mark 2:7 “What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

Mark 2:8 Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts?”

Mark 2:9 Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’?

Mark 2:10 So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said,

Mark 2:11 “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!”

Mark 2:12 And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We've never seen anything like this before!”

Discussion:

This could be called a turning point in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus makes a public display of proclaiming a man's sins to be forgiven and then backing up that claim with a miraculous healing. The primary lesson in Mark 2:1-12 is Jesus has authority...over broken bodies and broken souls!

A secondary lesson is found in the actions of four men who brought the paralytic man into the presence of One who has the authority to heal and to forgive sin.

What one word would you use to describe the actions of these four men?

Discuss the following questions:

Why were they so persistent?

How did they demonstrate boldness?

How did they show creativity?

How was this a “costly” act to these four friends?

What does the example of these men teach us about the privilege of intercession?

How did Jesus respond to the interruption to His teaching? How does His response speak to your priorities in life?

How do you handle interruptions in your life?

Do you think the four men who assisted their paralyzed friend “*got more than they bargained for*” that day?

What are some of the potential outcomes when we act in kindness toward others in the name of Christ?

Do you think Jesus invites us to join Him in bringing healing to others? Do we have authority to do so and in what ways?

Homework:

Charles Ryrie points out in his Bible commentary several things about Faith from this passage:

Faith works - The men expended great effort to help their friend.

Faith persists - They didn't let personal inconvenience stop them.

Faith succeeds - Their faith was rewarded. The man was healed

Can you give testimony to an example of this kind of faith in your life?

Who is the next person God is bringing to your mind that could use your help and assistance?