

January 20th, 2019
Christ's Authority Over Sin
Mark 1:35-39; 2:1-17

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Jan 13	Genesis 38-40	Jan 17	Genesis 48-50
Jan 14	Genesis 41-42	Jan 18	Exodus 1-3
Jan 15	Genesis 43-45	Jan 19	Exodus 4-6
Jan 16	Genesis 46-47	Jan 20	Exodus 7-9

Lesson Introduction: This week's lesson picks right up where last week's left off. We saw the authority of Jesus on display in our previous lesson, as we considered His call, His teaching, and His power over sickness. This week we will dive into His authority over sin. Before we do that however, we will consider Mark 1:35-39 (This section of the text was included in last week's lesson, but we will cover it this week along with our section of chapter 2). We will see there where Christ's authority came from, and what His source of strength was as He ministered on Earth. From there we will dive into chapter 2, considering Jesus' love sinners, and the authority He possesses to set us free from sin and death.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Christ's ministry and authority flowed out of union with His Father (Ch. 1:35-39)**
- **Our spiritual need is far greater than our physical need (Ch. 2:1-12)**
- **Jesus came to save sinners (Ch. 2:13-17)**

Mark 1:35-39

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Mark 2:1-17

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. 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!"

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."

Discussion Section 1: Christ's Source of Authority (Ch. 1:35-39)

-What does this passage tell us about Jesus' first priorities?

-Where was Jesus' authority derived from?

-What can we learn personally from Jesus' example in these verses?

Note: As Jesus begins His ministry, we arrive at an interesting section of Scripture where Mark takes time to let us know about how Christ prepared Himself for the

work that was ahead of Him. While this may seem like a small side note, it tells us much about where Jesus drew His strength and authority from, and what His priorities were. This entire section of Scripture is filled with remarkable actions of Jesus, but may we not lose sight in the midst of the grandeur, that even in this seemingly unremarkable prayer session, Jesus is teaching us great things. What He teaches us first, is that reliance on the Father is essential in order to do the things He has called us to. Although He was fully God (as we will see again momentarily), the Scriptures teach that Jesus emptied Himself of the glory that He had in heaven and became a servant (**Philippians 2:5-11, John 17:5**). As He ministered on earth, He did so with a constant reliance on the Father. The Scriptures are clear that it was through the Father that Jesus was able to exercise authority in teaching, over sickness, and in bringing sinners to salvation (**John 5:19-20; 6:37-39; 17:1-2, Matthew 28:18**). What an amazing thing that Jesus, God in flesh, deeply relied on His Father.

Secondly, we see that Jesus prioritized His time with His Father. After no doubt being up late into the night (**V. 33-34**), rather than sleeping in the next day, Jesus got up before the sun came up, in order to spend time with the LORD. He recognized that He needed His Father more than He needed rest, and that without intimacy with Him, His ministry would fail. Vance Pitman, Pastor of Hope Church in Las Vegas, once stated that, as Christians, **“we are not called first to ministry, but to intimacy with God.”** If Jesus needed this time with His Father, with Whom He had spent eternity past, how much more do we? Each of us could greatly benefit in our Christian walk by prioritizing more time for leaning into our Father as we read His word and call out to Him. May we be a people who follow Christ’s example, yearning for time with God more than sleep, or anything else!

Discussion Section 2: Jesus Sees Deeper (Ch. 2:1-12)

-What is surprising about Jesus’ first words to the paralytic man?

-What is it about Jesus’ initial response to the man that angered the religious leaders?

-What do these verses teach us about our greatest need?

Note: In this famous story that many of us have grown up hearing, we see Jesus, for the first time, proclaim that He has the authority to forgive sin. In making this

proclamation, in turn, He is indeed proclaiming that He is God! This proclamation confounds the religious leaders of the day. Word had no doubt gotten around about this miracle worker, and He could now go nowhere without facing great crowds of people who longed to hear His teaching and gain healing from Him. As a man is shockingly lowered through a roof, clearly seeking physical healing from his paralyzed state, Jesus sees Him, and what happens next is remarkable. Rather than keying in on what was obviously wrong with the man physically, Jesus gets to the man’s deeper issue, namely, his sin. This man certainly must have believed that his greatest issue in life was the fact that he could not walk. But Jesus quickly showed him that his spiritual need was of primary importance. Just like this man, we too most desperately need the washing from sin that only Jesus can offer, far more than we need any temporary healing on earth. Just as Jesus was primarily concerned with this man’s soul, so too should we pray for our neighbors and our relatives, for far greater than their physical need is the need for forgiveness of sin which only comes from Christ!

Discussion Section 3: Jesus Came to Save Sinners (Ch. 2:13-17)

-What was strange about Jesus selecting Levi (Matthew) as one of His disciples?

-Why were the scribes and Pharisees bothered by the company that Jesus kept?

-What do these verses tell us about Jesus’ purpose?

Note: As this passage closes, we see Jesus choose a tax collector as one of His 12 disciples, and spend time eating with people that the moral elite of the day found to be unacceptable company. It is in this section of Scripture that Jesus proclaims who He has come to save, namely, sinners. The Pharisees clearly had a misunderstanding about how to attain righteousness. They believed that they were righteousness based on the works they had done themselves, failing to recognize that it is by faith alone (in the only truly righteous One), by grace alone (from the only truly righteous One) that they could be saved (**John 14:6, Galatians 2:16, Romans 3:28; 4:3-5; 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9**). What an incredible truth it is, that the King of the universe stepped down into our brokenness, in order to save us! Today may we recognize His goodness and mercy and celebrate the fact that it is through Him alone that we are justified!