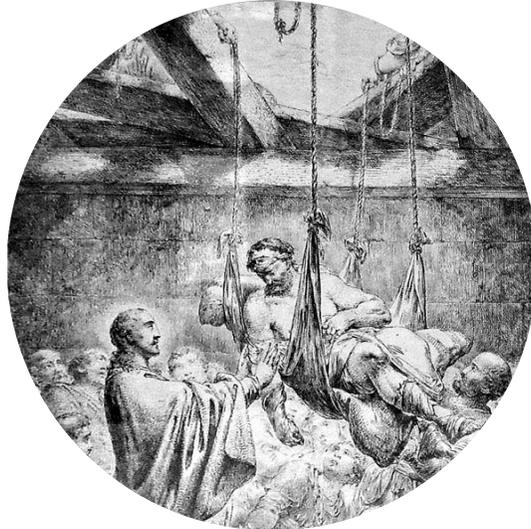


Who is Jesus?



COMMON GROUND

- Have you ever done something you wanted to take back? Or have you ever wanted a "do-over"?
- What would it take to have a fresh start?

KNOWN TRUTH

A do-over or second chance is possible but takes forgiveness.

MAIN PASSAGE

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has

authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

MARK 2:1-12

WHAT DOES THIS STORY TELL US ABOUT JESUS?

What do we observe about Jesus?

- He preaches to them
- Everyone wants to be close to him
- He forgives sins
- He perceives their thoughts
- He has the power to heal

Explain the meaning of these observations:

- His words draw people and his message was magnetic
- Jesus isn't just concerned with people's outward actions which can sometimes be "religious" or "moral" while their hearts are wrong or selfish. Jesus calls these people elsewhere "white-washed tombs" (Matthew 23:27). He perceives their inner thoughts and motives.
 - Self test: Why do you do the things you do and whom do you do them for? (Theme of Lordship next week)
- He claims to forgive sins
 - Until this point, forgiveness of sins only happens at the temple where God's presence dwells. Jesus is implicitly claiming that the one who fills the temple and makes it special is here, *in him*. Forgiveness is here because he is the new temple where God dwells.

For in Christ all the fullness of the God lives in bodily form.

COLOSSIANS 2:9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:1 & 14

("Made his dwelling" in the Greek means "tabernacled". The tabernacle and temple served the same purpose.)

- He has the power to heal
 - Healing is proof that he is who he says he is
 - *What is easier say? That your sins are forgiven or to be healed?*
 - Healing shows that God's Kingdom is coming
 - Jesus came preaching about the Kingdom of God and taught his disciples to pray, "May your Kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as in heaven."

- Jesus's healing is a signpost and an expression of God's kingdom coming, His will being done on earth
- God's kingdom is coming setting all things right and making all things new -- a "do-over" for all creation

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

- *Based on the story, can Jesus give you a do-over? What could that look like?*
- We all need a do-over at some point
 - The Christian life is a life of infinite new beginnings. We don't always get to start over where we were but we always get a chance to start over
- Jesus gave this man a do-over physically and spiritually. Jesus is our place to start over
 - If we've messed up

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

- If we are ashamed

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death.

ROMANS 8:1-2

- If we are self-righteous
 - Paul, a religious man / "church kid" who tried to do the right things for the wrong reasons, wrote this about himself. He needed grace as much as anyone else:

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

- Personal testimony - Tell a story of how you've found a new start in Jesus and maybe how you identify with one of these descriptions.
- Application - Pray together as a small group for a fresh start.