

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
003 - SUNDAY – JULY 14, 2024

WEEK TITLE - CONTROVERSIES

Memory Text: Mark 2:27–28 (NKJV) “(27) And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. (28) Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

HEALING A PARALYTIC

Mark 2 contains five stories that illustrate Jesus’ teaching in contrast to the teaching of the religious leaders. The stories are in a specific pattern in which each successive story links to the one before via a topical parallel. The final story circles around and reconnects with the first one.

What we will see, too, is an example of a technique the Gospel writer uses that is called “Sandwich Stories.” This narrative pattern appears at least six times in Mark.

In each case some important aspect of the nature of Jesus and His role as Messiah, or the nature of discipleship, is the focus.

Mark 2:1–12 (NKJV) “(1) And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. (2) Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. (3) Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. (4) And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. (5) When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” (6) And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, (7) “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (8) But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? (9) Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? (10) But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, (11) “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” (12) Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!””

1. **Divine Attraction:** Mark 2:2 “Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door.”
2. **The Logos:** Mark 2:2 “And He preached the word to them.”
3. **Mission of Divinity:** Mark 2:3 “Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.”

4. **Discipleship Determination:** Mark 2:4 “And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.”
5. **Divine Discernment & Divine Purpose:** Mark 2:5 “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”
6. **Religious Ignorance:** Mark 2:6-7 “And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, (7) “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
7. **The Discernment of Jesus:** Mark 2:8 “But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?”
8. **The Power of Jesus:** Mark 2:9-10 “Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? (10) But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” —He said to the paralytic,
9. **The Expedience of Divinity:** Mark 2:11 “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”
10. **The Shock Factor of Divinity:** Mark 2:12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

What was the paralytic looking for when he was brought to Jesus, and what did he receive?

The paralytic received spiritual and physical healing.

- a. Our physical needs are OBVIOUS.
- b. Our spiritual needs are OBSCURE.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

How does this text explain what was happening between Jesus and the leaders?

Micah 6:6–8 (NKJV) (6) “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? (7) Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (8) He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

1. **Don’t put your religion before the needs of others:** These religious leaders **lost sight of what really mattered:** justice, mercy, and walking humbly before God.
2. **Don’t allow your perception of Jesus to obscure your discernment of Jesus:** So obsessed with **defending their understanding of God**, they were **blinded to God’s working right before their eyes.**

- 3. Don't do for others with an ulterior motive in your heart:** Nothing indicated that the men changed their minds about Jesus, even though He gave them more than enough evidence to know that Jesus was from God:

How can we be careful to avoid the same trap that these men fell into: being so obsessed with the forms of religion that they lost sight of what really mattered in true religion?

Luke 24:45 (NKJV) "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

Revelation 3:18 (NKJV) "anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."

Psalms 119:18 (NKJV) "Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law."