



**"THE SON OF MAN HAS AUTHORITY TO FORGIVE SINS"**

MARK 2:1-12

*The makeup of the crowd;*

**LUKE 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

**MARK 12:39**

<sup>39</sup> ...and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts...

**The danger of facility-worship.**

*Have you ever found yourself resentful and indignant of those who seem careless with a church's facilities/property? Do you think this can betray a heart that loves things more than (unregenerate) people?*

*Does Jesus see their faith, or the working of their faith?;*

**JAMES 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

*Other instances of Jesus "seeing" faith;*

**MARK 10:52**

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; *your faith has made you well.*" And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

**MATTHEW 8:10**

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, *with no one in Israel have I found such faith.*"

**MATTHEW 9:22**

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; *your faith has made you well.*" And instantly the woman was made well.

**MATTHEW 15:28**

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, *great is your faith!* Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

*Forgiveness of sins equals justification, and justification comes by faith alone;*

**EPHESIANS 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

**EPHESIANS 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...

*The arrival of the kingdom Jesus has proclaimed means the forgiveness of sins;*

**JEREMIAH 31:34**

<sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. *For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*"

*A priest could pronounce the forgiveness of sins based on repentance and sacrifice, but Jesus is not pronouncing forgiveness, He is conferring it;*

**LEVITICUS 19:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> but he shall bring his compensation to the LORD, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, a ram for a guilt offering. <sup>22</sup> And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven for the sin that he has committed.

*The Son's authority to judge mankind;*

**JOHN 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, *but has given all judgment to the Son...*

***Jesus' claim to deity: Forgiveness of sin can be declared only by the one sinned against.***

*The Son knows the hearts and thoughts of men;*

**MARK 8:16**

<sup>16</sup> And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread.

**MARK 12:15**

<sup>15</sup> But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."

**JOHN 2:24**

<sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, *because he knew all people*

**REVELATION 2:23**

<sup>23</sup> ...And all the churches will know that *I am he who searches mind and heart*, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

*"The first step to a sinner's conversion is when he takes seriously that God sees his heart; and the foundation of all godliness is when we take seriously that God sees our heart."* —**Albert Martin**

**HEBREWS 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and *discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**The spiritual power of meditating upon the all-knowing God.**

*How consistently do you consider the God who knows every thought and emotion of your heart (1 Chronicles 28:9)? Meditate upon **Psalm 139:23-24**. What does it mean for God to "search and know your heart?"*

*The more difficult "saying" is the one that can be verified;*

**DEUTERONOMY 18:22**

<sup>22</sup> when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, *if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously.* You need not be afraid of him.

### **Why does Jesus pronounce forgiveness first?**

*Consider your immediate reaction if you were the paralytic: Do you think your facial expressions or body language would have betrayed a disappointment at Jesus' pronouncement of your forgiveness (only)?*

*Doubting the Lord's Christ is an evil thing;*

#### **HEBREWS 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an *evil, unbelieving heart*, leading you to fall away from the living God.

*The Son brings great good out of their evil thoughts;*

#### **GENESIS 50:20**

<sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, *but God meant it for good*, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

#### **ROMANS 8:28**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God *all things work together for good*, for those who are called according to his purpose.

### **The God whose sovereign goodness knows no limits.**

*Consider the sovereign power of a God who brings good—not just out of evil deeds—but even evil thoughts.*

*The Son is given complete authority;*

#### **MATTHEW 28:18**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..."*

### **The paralytic must act on Jesus' command.**

*What do you think entered the mind of the paralytic in that moment that he was commanded by Jesus to walk? In what way is the reader shown the creating power of Jesus' words?*