

WHAT MAKES HIM TALK LIKE THAT?

Mark 2:1-12 Rev. Brian W. Secor
Broadway Christian Church December 28, 2014

In Gospel of Mark, entering section that runs from 2:1 to 3:6 in which focus is on _____ key questions. 2:6-7; 2:16; 2:18; 2:24; 3:4

1. Four are asked by religious leaders & religious people. One is asked by Jesus of those same people. Answers are crucial. First question: What makes him talk like that?

I. JESUS HAS COME HOME TO CAPERNAUM.

1. Event is told in Mt. 9, Mark 2 & in Luke 5. Pretty important.

A. He left a celebrity; now he has the scrutiny of the _____ leaders to deal with.

1. Jesus left Capernaum because he didn't want to have the popularity that was being forced upon him.
2. When he came back to Capernaum, he was met by many friends & by a bunch of teachers of the law. They will be Jesus' _____ throughout the Gospel because their suppositions and spiritual blindness keep them from answering properly, "What makes this man talk like that?"
3. Theirs was a formal, legalistic understanding of God, not as the God of the living & as the God who comes near. So when Jesus says he forgives the paralytic's sins, they go crazy. May we not be like them!

B. Jesus responds to the _____ of four men who brought their friend to Jesus for healing.

1. There is a dimension to faith, recorded in the Bible, that God accounts the faith he brings to life in us as if it were our very _____ creation. So it is here with these four bearers of the paralytic & his bed.
2. No wonder Jesus remarked upon their faith. Nothing was going to stand in the way of getting their friend to Jesus. They would not give up or give in to any _____ until their friend was made whole.
3. How often do we let little things keep us from bringing our friends to Jesus for the forgiveness & healing they need?

C. Jesus _____ the man his sin & heals him.

1. There was something c. paralytic that called for spiritual healing before physical healing could be effective.

2. We are prone to think that _____ needs are most important needs but they are not. Of far greater importance is that our sins be forgiven & we be spiritually well through Jesus.

D. The conflict centers on the _____ of Jesus.

1. Teachers of the law ask: Who can forgive sins but God alone? Answer: _____ alone. What they fail to do is follow through on logic of the answer. If this man Jesus forgives sins, then this man is not merely a man. He must be the promised Messiah, _____ with us.
2. Are two miracles here. Forgiveness is work of God he does every day. But healing the paralytic & knowing the thoughts of the teachers — this doesn't happen every day.
3. Who is Jesus? What makes him talk like that? It is who he _____ that makes him talk like that. Col. 1:15-20.
4. Jesus is _____ in human form, fully God, fully man, the Incarnate One, Immanuel. Jesus talks like that because he is God.

E. The result is that people are _____ by events and _____ God for the outcome.

1. When that paralytic took up his bed & walked through the crowd, everyone was amazed. Folks praised God & declared, "We've never seen anything like this!"
2. We have Gospel record & while miracles are few & far between today, we still see Jesus forgiving sins & making people whole. It all depends upon your perspective.
 - a. For those who believe God is dead or distant, _____ see much at all.
 - b. As believers, when we look back upon 2014 & ahead to 2015, we see the _____ of Jesus, touching us, touching others so that they are physically made whole & spiritually restored to life. Praise be to God!

II. WHO JESUS IS MATTERS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE TODAY AND IN 2015.

A. Jesus is _____ come down to us.

1. What makes that man talk like that? Today & centuries past, many have tried to whittle Jesus down to human proportions.
2. We dare not make him _____ than he is. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

I'm trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." ... Either this man was and is the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." p. 55-56

3. In the gospels & in this life, _____ confronts us with who he is because who he is answers the question, "What makes him speak like that?" And how does he speak? As God become man, as the one who from the ages past knows all things & as the Alpha & the Omega, the beginning & the end, the one who holds all things together & moves time to its rendezvous with heaven that will come to earth.

B. Jesus recognizes & encourages what _____ we have.

1. Jesus looks for faith awakening in people's lives & then moves heaven & earth to increase that faith.
2. He would not have us stay childlike in our faith, as important as implicit trust in him is. He encourages us to develop faith just like the four men. They pressed on in faith to the tearing up of a roof to get to Jesus.
3. 2015 calls for us to _____ our faith so that we will hear praise & commendation for our acts of faith from the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ as individuals & as a church in 2015.

C. The great need for our world is to find _____ of its sins.

1. Our secular **world** mocks the Church as she declares you must be born again & that there is salvation from sin in no other than in Jesus Christ. Their mockery does not change the facts of the situation. Our sins are many & only forgiveness of sin can heal our world.
2. 2014 has demonstrated that world leadership does not have an _____ to the hatreds & violence of this world. Only _____ can bring real peace & solution to the world's problems. Until we turn to him, we can expect more wars & rumors of wars, violence & hatred. Sin rules in the hearts of humanity & is an incurable disease. Let us determine that it won't in us by seeking quickly forgiveness for any sin we

might commit.

D. When Jesus is at work, the proper _____ is amazement & praise to God.

1. Helmut Thielecke, German theologian: "The wonder of forgiveness has become a banality. It can be the death of faith if we forget that it is literally a miracle."
2. It would be good for us to be more _____ at what God is doing in our lives. He has saved us but he is saving us. He has led us in paths of righteousness & he is leading us in paths of righteousness. He has blessed us w/ Christian fellowship & he is blessing us w/ Christian fellowship. The best of all — past, present, future — is that God is w/ us. We have never been alone; we will never be alone. Jesus is Lord of all. Come what may in 2015, we count on him to do some amazing things among & with us.
3. It will be good for us to then _____ the Lord. All we are we are because of him. It is he that has made us & not we ourselves. We are his people & the sheep of his pasture. Underneath will be the everlasting arms. To be silent when we have so much to praise him for is sinful. To see only concerns & not find the joys of God's presence leads us to become spiritually myopic. The Lord is God. On heaven's throne, our God reigns. Let the words of our mouth & the meditations of our hearts lead us to praise the Lord & to rejoice in him who is God with us.

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the
King of creation
O my soul praise him for he is thy
health and salvation
All ye who hear, now to his temple
draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!*

