

September 25/26, 2005

Study Questions
The Good News About Jesus According to Mark
Getting Jesus' Attention
Mark 2:1-12
Pastor Andy MacFarlane

Opening Discussion

1. Have you spent much time studying and considering the claims and teachings of other spiritual leaders? If so, what conclusions have you drawn from your study?
2. Why have you chosen to follow Jesus instead of some other spiritual leader?

Bible Study

1. If you had been the paralytic, what do you think you would have done when you were unable to get to Jesus because of the crowd? Why?

What would you have done if you had been one of the four men carrying the paralytic? Why?

2. Why do you think these men decided to dig through the roof? Do you think anyone tried to stop them or dissuade them?

Has there been a time in your life when you were particularly desperate to get to Jesus? What were the circumstances and what did you do to get to Jesus?

3. Why do you think the actions of these men captured Jesus' attention?

What do you think it is about faith that captures Jesus' attention?

4. Do you find it easy to live by faith? Why or why not?

Why is salvation by grace through faith so hard for some people to grasp and/or accept?

5. What is your attitude toward the scribes and their concern (vs. 6-7) that in forgiving sins, Jesus is claiming to be God? Do you fault them for their concerns? Why or why not?

What is the point of Jesus' question in verse 9? For every *other* person, why is it easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven"?

6. Why do you think Mark gives so many examples of Jesus' public miracles?

7. Honestly, how do you think you would have responded if you had witnessed the healing of the paralytic?

How is it that people can be amazed by Jesus' works but not believe in Him?

Application

1. Have you placed your faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins? Are you ever tempted to rely on works to maintain your relationship with God? If so, when are you most likely to fall into that trap?
2. What is it in your life right now that is demanding faith on your part? In what areas of your life do you need to let go?
3. Does this passage motivate you to live by faith? If so, how?