

## Healing: An Expression of Forgiveness

The authority to forgive sins on earth is the unique privilege of the Son of Man.

**Mark 2:1-12** - *A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 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? 9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . . ." He said to the paralytic, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 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 1:14-15** - *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Jesus' response to their faith was unexpected; it seemed inappropriate and even irrelevant.

**1. Healing is obtained by the forgiveness of God and is often the expression of that forgiveness.**

**2 Chron 7:14** - *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will **forgive** their sin and will **heal** their land.*

**Ps 103:2-3** - *Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,*

**Ps 41:4** - *I said, "O LORD, have **mercy** on me; **heal** me, for I have sinned against you."*

**Hos 14:4** - *"I will **heal their waywardness** and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.*

**2. Healing is a gracious movement of God.**

Every healing is a driving back of death and an invasion of the territory of sin.

### OFFENSES

Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins like a prophet.

**2 Sam 12:13** - *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.*

## **THE CATCH**

Jesus prepares for the word of healing which demonstrates that forgiveness has actually been realized in the experience of the afflicted man.

**3. It is the declaration of forgiveness which is more essential---and the more difficult---of the two actions.**

The power manifested in the remission of sins and the healing of the paralyzed man belonged exclusively to Him.

The scribes were forced to recognize that this declaration of forgiveness had been complete.

**Isa 35:6** - *Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.*