

Power to Heal the Heart

Mark 2:1-12

The union of Christ's deity and humanity in one Person makes it such that we have all that we need in the same Savior. How glorious! Because Jesus is God, he is all-powerful and he cannot be defeated. Because he is God, he is the only adequate Savior. Because he is God, believers are safe and can never perish; we have security. Because he is God, we can have confidence that he will empower us for the task that he commands us for. And because he is God, all people will be accountable to him when he returns to judge the world.

Because Jesus is man, he has experienced the same things that we do. Because he is man, he can identify with us more intimately. Because he is man, he can come to our aid as our sympathetic High Priest when we reach the limits of our human weaknesses. Because he is man, we can relate to him — he is not far off and uninvolved. Because he is man, we cannot complain that God does not know what we are going through. He experienced it firsthand. Matt Perman, desiringGod.org

- I. Mark writes about Jesus setting us free from a powerful, debilitating, innate, controlling master that shows no mercy, grace, or kindness but only death to those enslaved by it. When the Son of Man introduced himself, the people were amazed at his teaching. They were amazed that he gave orders to evil spirits and they obeyed him. They were amazed, grateful, and overjoyed that he set those with debilitating disease free from their infirmities. The blind could see again. The deaf could hear again. The cripple could walk again. The leper could go home again, and the demon possessed could be normal again. But what about the heart? Was getting set free from the debilitating effects of living in a fallen world with fallen bodies more important to them than being set free from their cruel taskmaster sin?

Mark 2:1-5

Rom. 6:16-18

τέκνον téknon = a male child, a son

metaph. the name transferred to that intimate and reciprocal relationship formed between men by the bonds of love, friendship, trust, just as between parents and children

Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?*

- II. Being permanently set free from the wages of sin, which is spiritual death, is the only thing we can truly be set free from in this life. All other freedom is temporary at best. The God of this age will do everything in his power to keep people enslaved to sin. Jesus Christ does everything in his power to set people free from sin. His interaction with the teachers of the law provides a perfect example of how darkness responds to the light of the gospel. Consider it a miracle that his light penetrated the darkness of our hearts to bring us to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. He opened our eyes to see and he gave us the faith and understanding we needed for salvation.

Mark 2:6-9

Lev. 24:15-16

Mark 14:61-64

1 Cor. 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."*

2 Corinthians 4:6 *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."*

- III. Jesus loved to call himself the "Son of Man." Seventy-eight times he refers to himself in this way to emphasize his humanity as our Sacrificial Lamb and sympathetic High Priest. *"Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17).*

Mark 2:10-12

Dan. 7:13-14

Malachi 4:1

Rom. 8:3 *For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh*

"The Son of Man is a title that was used exclusively by Jesus - His disciples never addressed Him as such. Jesus used it to emphasize His humanity. The title goes back to the Book of Daniel where the Son of Man would inherit the everlasting kingdom of God. It is a designation of the Messiah. At His trial Jesus acknowledged that He indeed was the Son of Man - the one who would bring in God's everlasting kingdom. When the religious leaders heard this, they accused Him of blasphemy - making Himself equal with God. The purpose of the title seems to be Jesus' own emphasis on His humanity." Don Stewart