

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

5.5.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Healing and Forgiveness

## Mark 2: 1 – 12

Christ, who is identified as the Son of Man, is fully God and fully man. Being fully man, he became the sacrifice for our sins. Being fully God, the character of his deity made his sacrifice worthy. Forgiveness of sin, from the very beginning of time has been based upon Christ death on the cross. Under the Mosaic covenant, mankind's sins were forgiven on the basis of animal sacrifices, which was a foreshadowing of the crucifixion of Christ. During the time that Christ lived on this earth, mankind's sins were forgiven on the basis of his death, which was to come, therefore the benefit of that sacrifice was granted unto those who had faith in Christ. Now, throughout this grace dispensation period, since the ascension of Christ into heaven, by faith, humanity looks back upon the death and resurrection of Christ for the remission of sin, so that we might receive the forgiveness of God the Father. No matter what the period of time, it is only through Christ that there can be forgiveness of sin.

**Hebrews 9: 22,....**and almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission.

The law, or the old covenant required a sacrifice, every person had to be purified by blood, but there was a drawback to this. Since this could not change man on the inside, these sacrifices had to be repeated, so as to keep pointing man toward the true means of redemption, which would come from sacrifice of Christ, the Son of God. Now, this sacrifice would only be made one time, for it would be permanent and complete. The next time that Christ comes it will not be as a sacrifice, but it will be to fulfill God's perfect plan.

So, this means that under the new covenant, something greater than purification took place, for with the sacrifice of Christ came forgiveness of sin for all of humanity.

**Isaiah 53: 1 – 12,....**he was wounded for our transgression, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed....

The old covenant, although perfect in its content for its time, it was conditional on man's obedience to God. In order to point mankind to Christ, the law was considered a school master if you will, but in fact it was a covenant of spiritual death, for it could not save mankind, therefore, it needed to be replaced with an unconditional covenant, an eternal covenant, a covenant which was planned in eternity past, a covenant that was implemented with the crucifixion of Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, with the result of life everlasting. The result of this covenant therefore covered humanity, past, present, and future, for it is for all mankind.

**Mark 2: 1 – 5,....**he entered into Capernaum....and it was noised that he was in the house....many....gathered....insomuch that there was no room to receive them....and he preached the word unto them....they came....bringing one sick....when they could not come nigh....they uncovered the roof....they let down the bed....when Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick....thy sins be forgiven thee....

Humanity as a whole, when threatened with ailments of the physical body, will in some opportune way, seek healing from God, no matter whether it is the believer petitioning God on his or her own behalf, or the non-believer petitioning God through those whom they believe to have a right relationship with God. Now, we know that there are those who have reaped the benefits of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and have yet to acknowledge him, but one thing we must understand is that God does not work in time as we know it, and although we may see his works in the lives of those who do not always profess him, his grace, his mercy, and his forgiveness is always based upon the moment that Christ died upon the cross. Christ came not on the basis of our worldly, bodily condition, but he came to ensure our heavenly position in God.

Christ forgave the man who was sick of the palsy of his sins even before he himself was crucified for all of mankind's sins, therefore man received the benefit of a sacrifice that had not happened yet because this man's faith was the assurance of what he hoped for eternally. He knew that he needed to accept Christ forgiveness of his own willing desire, and then physically Christ would do what he seen would best benefit the man and the situation that he was in. Whether our petition is for physical healing or spiritual forgiveness, our faith should be that God will do what is best according to his purpose and plan.

Christ came for a greater purpose than just to supply mankind's many physical needs. He came so that humanity would turn from sin and unbelief and put their faith and trust in God. Now, does this mean that God will not heal you if there is sin in your life, not at all, for there will always be sin in our life, and even though we do not always realize it, sin is a critical issue in our life. Forgiveness from God is very closely related with having our health restored and our life revitalized.

**Proverbs 17: 22,....**a merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones....

That which is in a person's heart affects his outlook on life and will even his health. The ultimate source of joy to bring about a merry heart is found in a right relationship of God. A right relationship with God comes unto us through his word.

**Mark 2: 6 – 12,....**there were certain....reasoning in their hearts....who can forgive sins but God only?....Jesus perceived in his spirit....he said....why reason ye these things in your heart?....is it easier to say thy sins be forgiven....or to say, arise, and take up thy bed and walk?....the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins....arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way unto thine house....immediately he arose....they were amazed and glorified God, saying we never saw it or this fashion....

Every circumstance in our life is an opportunity to speak Gods word to others. Many opportunities have been presented by means of others asking for prayer for physical ailments in their bodies. These moments of opportunity are given by God to open a line of communication, so that we might have the ability to present the healing power of God by way of forgiveness through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 11: 1,....**now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen....

It is very important to know that faith itself does not heal. Sadly, many people have been told that you just need more faith, or that your ongoing sickness is due to a lack of faith. It is not the quality of faith, but it is the reality of what we put our faith in. Our faith is meant to encourage us so that we might seek through a humbleness of heart, seek to put our confidence in the one who searcheth the heart, so that we would not have to experience spiritual death, which would mean that we would be eternally separated from God. Our faith is not in the healing, but in the one who does the healing. So, we pray in humble confidence, with great expectation, trusting in God and asking him to do that which only he can do, that which is in accordance with his purpose, his plan, and his will for our life.

**2 Peter 3: 9,....**the Lord is not slack concerning his promise....but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance....

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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