

LESSON PLAN

JESUS HEALS TWO MEN

Mark 1:40-45; 2:1-16

Lesson Memory Verse: Mark 2:5 “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the sick of the palsy, Son, your sins be forgiven you.”

Lesson Aim: We must go to Jesus to receive the forgiveness for our sins.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

Key (for Attention): Have any of you been so sick that you had to go to the hospital? Tell us about it. In Bible times when people got sick with leprosy, they did not have a hospital for them. They would be forced to leave their home, family and friends and would have to live alone or with other lepers, because it is easily passed on to other people. As a result people were greatly afraid of leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that attacks your nerves and soon makes it impossible for you to feel anything. If it attacked the nerves of your hand, you would not be able to feel if something was hot or cold, or if you were being cut. You could cut off a finger and never feel it.

Another sickness in Jesus’ day was palsy, which means that the person was paralyzed. Have any of you ever seen anyone in a wheelchair who was barely able to move? He probably needed someone to feed him, to dress him and to move him from room to room, and if no one would take care of him, he would die. It would be a terrible thing to have either leprosy or palsy.

HE (for Authority): When you have sin in your life, it is like being sick with leprosy. Sin is awful because it keeps you far away from God. God is holy and cannot have anyone with sin near Him. He could never let you into Heaven with sin in your life. Sin is also like palsy because it makes you helpless (paralyzed). You cannot help yourself to get to Heaven. You will need someone who has not sinned to help you. Our memory verse for today says that Jesus will help you. In fact, Jesus is the only One Who can help you. He can forgive your sins just like He forgave the sins of the man who was paralyzed. When Jesus saw their faith (the faith of the paralytic and his friends), He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins be forgiven you.” You see, Jesus helped him by saving him from his sins. In the same way He wants to help you. Jesus came to earth to die for your sins and He arose from the grave to prove your sins are forgiven when you ask Him to be your Savior. When your sins are gone, you will be allowed to go to Heaven.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our story today we will learn about two sick men. One had leprosy and the other had palsy. (Teacher: You may wish to tell only one of these stories. This lesson we will show you how these men were healed from their awful sicknesses. You will want to listen carefully because Jesus still heals people, even though He is in heaven. And the best kind of healing that He does is to heal us of our sins. If you listen carefully you will know how Jesus can heal you and your friends of every kind of sin.

I. The Leper Came to Jesus - Mark 1:40a

Luke, the doctor, tells us that this man was “full of leprosy,” that is, he was very sick with this disease (Luke 5:12). So how did he come to Jesus? He came very humbly. Mark says he knelt down to Jesus, but Luke says he fell on his face before Him. In this humble way he came to Jesus to be healed. He was completely willing to place his life in the hands of Jesus Christ and yield to His help.

WE: What is our attitude toward Jesus Christ? Are we humble before Him? Do we desperately want His help? The leper was not afraid of what the people might think or do when he came to Jesus; he was only concerned about what Jesus would think and do for him. We must be concerned about what our friends might think, but we must be concerned about what God might think. Sin has separated us from God so we need Jesus to take away our sins before we can come into God’s presence. If you have not asked Jesus to take away your sins, do it now. Humbly fall on your knees and ask Jesus for His forgiveness.

II. The Leper Confided in Jesus - Mark 1:40b

When the leper knelt at the feet of Jesus, he said, “If you will, you can make me clean.” The leper was saying two things: (1) “Jesus, I know you have the power to heal me of leprosy”; and (2) “Jesus, I know that I cannot be healed until you decide to help me with your power.”

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WE: We must do more than come to Jesus to be saved from our sin; we must come to Him in faith before He will use His power to save us. Tell Him that you faith in Him to save you. When you pray with faith, you will be rewarded (Heb 11:6).

III. The Leper Cleansed by Jesus - Mark 1:41-42

When Jesus saw the leper humbly kneeling before Him and heard him express his faith, He “was moved with compassion.” The leper had touched Jesus’ heart and in return Jesus touched his body. It was a body full of leprosy, and it was forbidden for anyone else to touch a leper, but when Jesus touched him, he was made well immediately.

WE: There is nothing we can do to be forgiven of our sins except to humble ourselves before God and believe that Jesus Christ can save us. When we do that, He will cleanse us from every sin and make us a new person (2 Cor 5:17).

IV. The Leper Commanded by Jesus - Mark 1:43-45

After the leper was completely healed, Jesus gave him a biblical command that may sound strange to us. He told him not to tell anyone that he had been healed. Instead He told him to show himself to the priest. He would examine him and if there was no leprosy, he would say, you are clean. Then he was to offer a sacrifice for his cleansing. Jesus knew that the leper could serve Him best by following the law given to Moses. But the leper did not obey Jesus. Instead he told everyone how Jesus had healed him of his leprosy and his disobedience made it impossible for Jesus to minister anymore in that city. Instead of coming to hear Jesus’ message of salvation, people were now coming to see His miracles. As a result, Jesus had to leave the city and go out into the country. The leper did not obey Jesus’ command and caused much trouble for Him. He was so excited about the great miracle that had happened to him that he failed to listen to Jesus. It was selfish of the leper to do what he wanted to do rather than obey Jesus’ command.

WE: After we are saved, we are to obey Christ’s command and be baptized as a testimony of our salvation. Then we are to live a godly life as the Holy Spirit teaches us in the Bible. Are you doing that?

In our second story a paralyzed man was healed. He also came to Jesus, committed himself to Him, was converted by Him and obeyed a command from Him. Listen and see how much better it is to obey Jesus.

I. The Paralytic Came to Jesus - Mark 2:1-4

The paralytic had four friends who brought him on a bed mat to the house where Jesus was teaching and preaching the Word of God. The four friends of the paralytic could not get him through the door to Jesus because there were so many people, so they carried him to the roof of the house. Then they removed some of the tiles of the roof and let the paralytic down on his bed mat with ropes right in front of Jesus so he could be healed. They knew that only Jesus could heal him and make him well.

WE: We should be thankful, if we have friends that have faith in God and help us when we need it. Do you have godly friends that love and trust Jesus? Do they like to go to a church where He is loved and preached? Be sure to choose those kinds of friends.

II. The Paralytic Committed Jesus - Mark 2:5

When the paralytic was let down through the roof to lie at the feet of Jesus, the Scripture does not tell us that any words were spoken, but it does say that “Jesus saw their faith.” How could Jesus see their faith? He could see it by what they did in order to bring the paralytic to Him. They were not ashamed to trust Jesus’ power to heal their friend. They were committed to Him and did not let anything stop them from helping their friend get to Jesus. As in the case of the leper, it was not enough to merely come to Jesus. They had to come with faith in Him.

WE: We need to come to Jesus with faith that He can save us. When we have faith in Him, we will not be ashamed to come to Him publicly so all people can see it.

III. The Paralytic Converted by Jesus - Mark 2:5-10

When Jesus saw their faith, that is the faith of the paralytic and his four friends, He said, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” Although no known words had been spoken to Jesus, He knew the paralytic needed

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his heart cleansed of sin first of all, and then He would heal his body of the paralysis. The religious leaders were astonished that Jesus dared to tell a man that his sins were forgiven. They said that only God could forgive sins. This showed that they did not believe that Jesus was God. But Jesus is God and He has the power to forgive sins.

WE: We need our sins to be forgiven by Jesus Christ. He will forgive us when He sees our faith in Him. Do you believe Jesus can forgive your sins? He will, if you turn away from them and seek His forgiveness.

IV. The Paralytic Commanded by Jesus - Mark 2:11-12

Now Jesus commanded the paralytic to do an impossible thing to prove that He had forgiven his sins. He said, Arise, and take up your bed mat, and go your way into your house. The man showed his faith in Jesus by getting up from his bed mat, by picking it up and by going to his house. He did what was humanly impossible before he met Jesus. But now he had the power from the Lord to obey all of His commands and so he did it. The people were amazed and glorified God! What a contrast between the leper who disobeyed the Lord and only brought glory to himself, and the paralytic who obeyed the Lord and brought glory to God.

WE: We can glorify God or glorify ourselves by our words, and by our actions. How do we act around our friends and classmates? How do we talk when we are with them? Are we glorifying God? If we disobey God, like the leper, we do not glorify God because we want to be the center of attention and get the glory. Be like the paralytic and obey the commands of God immediately! This will glorify God.

BE (for Action): Have you ever come to Jesus to be forgiven of your sins? If you have put your faith in Jesus, then act so that God is glorified by your life. If you have not done this, what is keeping you from putting your faith in Jesus? I will be pleased to talk with you about this after I dismiss the class. This is the most important thing that you can do in your life.