

Jesus is God so he can and does forgive sin!



A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 'Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

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? Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up, take your mat and walk"? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So he said to the man, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' 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 2:1-12 ~

What is the best news that you have ever received? How did it make you feel? Well Mark has some good news to share – in fact he has the best news to share. His good, fantastic news is that Jesus!

Mark then shows us four amazing reasons why Jesus is good news.

1. Jesus is good news because he saves.

When Mark calls Jesus the Messiah he is telling us that Jesus is God's chosen one who will bring people into God's family.

2. Jesus is good news because he is part of God's big plan.

Mark quotes from the prophets and tells us about John the Baptist because they show us that Jesus didn't turn up out of the blue, but that Jesus has always been part of God's plan to make it possible for everyone everywhere to be part of God's forever family.

3. Jesus is good news because he is greater than all others.

John the Baptist told the crowds that he wasn't God's special chosen one, but the one who came after him – that is Jesus – is God's special chosen one. And then John told everyone that God's special chosen one is greater than all others, he is the greatest of all time!

4. Jesus is good news because he associates with humans.

Even though Jesus is perfect and doesn't need to be baptised, he still does, to show that he cares about humans and he is willing to become one and share our experiences.

Jesus is good news indeed! But how should we respond to him?

Jesus tells us how to respond. We need to repent, that is turn back to God, and believe Jesus is God's special chosen one who saves people!

Some questions to think about:

1. What is Mark's good news?
2. What four reasons does Mark give for Jesus being good news?
3. How does that make you feel?
4. How should we respond to the good news of Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus. Thank you that Jesus is indeed good news. Please help us to believe the good news about Jesus and to turn back to you.

Amen.