

The Greater Miracle of Forgiveness

Summary and Goal

True faith seeks Jesus not only for physical healing but also spiritual healing. Jesus is not only able to heal the sick physically but, being fully God, He is also able to forgive us for our sins and heal us spiritually. The gospel of Jesus Christ is able to heal sinners completely and make them whole.

Main Passage

Mark 2:1-12

Session Outline

1. Faith is portrayed as desperately seeking restoration from Jesus (Mark 2:1-4).
2. Forgiveness is assumed to be a greater need than healing (Mark 2:5).
3. Jesus relieves both temporal and eternal suffering (Mark 2:6-12).

Theological Theme

Humanity's greatest need is forgiveness and spiritual restoration.

Christ Connection

Through His healing of the paralyzed man, Jesus demonstrated His authority over human suffering and His authority to forgive sins. By claiming to forgive sins, Jesus was putting Himself on par with God—the only One who can command disease and wipe away our wickedness.

Missional Application

God calls us to be active in bringing people to Jesus—the only One who has the power to heal our physical infirmities and forgive our sins.

Date of My Bible Study: _____

Session Plan

The Greater Miracle of Forgiveness

Introduction Option

Recruit someone from your group/church who has a similar testimony to the man in the writer's story—that is, someone who was ignorant of the gospel message despite having grown up in a church context. Ask this person, who is now a genuine believer, to take a few minutes to talk about how hearing the gospel clearly for the first time challenged his or her previous assumptions about God, sin, Jesus, and salvation. Then ask your group the following questions:

- What are the dangers of just assuming the gospel is heard and understood by the people within a church context?
- How can we as a group/church be proactive to keep “gospel ignorance” from developing within our church?

Introduction

Share the writer's story about meeting with a man at his job and discussing his relationship with Jesus (leader p. 118; PSG p. 92).

- ❓ If you were having this conversation with the man, how would you respond to his hope for his salvation? What would you say is missing, if anything?

Summarize this session on Jesus' ability to heal both physically and spiritually (leader p. 118; PSG p. 93).

1. Faith is portrayed as desperately seeking restoration from Jesus (Mark 2:1-4).

Read Mark 2:1-4. Say that Jesus arrived at His home base to rest. But soon a crowd formed at the home, so He demonstrated compassion again for the lost by teaching them (leader pp. 119-120; PSG pp. 93-94).

- ❓ What are some excuses and objections we can come up with for not engaging with the lost in order to share the gospel with them?
- ❓ How does the compassion of Jesus Christ coming to us in the gospel overcome our excuses and objections?

Next, focus on the men carrying a paralytic to Jesus for healing and how they got him to Jesus in spite of the crowd. This demonstrated their strong faith in Jesus. Encourage the group to consider the lengths they would go to in order to bring someone to Jesus (leader pp. 120-121; PSG p. 94).

- ❓ What motivates you to help people encounter Jesus? Why?

2. Forgiveness is assumed to be a greater need than healing (Mark 2:5).

Remind the group that the friends brought the paralytic to Jesus for his physical healing; then read Mark 2:5. Clarify that Jesus' expression of forgiveness for the man's sins was a bold proclamation that He was God (*furthermore, use **Pack Item 10: Christ as Priest** to show that Jesus was also the fulfillment of the Old Testament office of priest*). Emphasize that spiritual healing of our "sin sickness" must hold priority of place as we minister in Jesus' name, even as we meet people's physical needs (leader pp. 121-122; PSG p. 95).

- What are some ways we can help others understand the priority of having our "sin sickness" healed, even over our desire for physical healing?

3. Jesus relieves both temporal and eternal suffering (Mark 2:6-12).

Ask a volunteer to read Mark 2:6-12. Show how the scribes present in the house concluded that Jesus was blaspheming, yet He addressed their thoughts and then proved His claim to forgive sins by physically healing the paralytic (leader pp. 123-124; PSG pp. 96-97).

- How has Jesus astonished you and given you reasons to glorify God?
- What are we to believe about Jesus because of His claims and His miracle in this narrative?

State that the greatest need every human being has is to be forgiven for our sins in order to receive complete spiritual restoration to God. Jesus healed the paralytic physically to prove He is the One who can fulfill this greatest need. Jesus is equal to God and He is the fulfillment of the messianic promises. Affirm these truths as the fuel for our passion to bring nonbelievers into contact with Jesus for spiritual healing (leader p. 124; PSG p. 98).

- How does this miracle of Jesus encourage you to be bold in sharing the gospel for the spiritual healing of others?

Conclusion

Return to the writer's conversation from the Introduction to illustrate the importance of recognizing our "sin sickness" and Jesus' ability to heal it, and let this fuel our gospel mission (leader p. 125; PSG p. 99). *Apply the truths of this session with "His Mission, Your Mission" (PSG p. 91).*

? For Further Discussion

If we rightly prioritize the spiritual need for forgiveness of sins over the physical needs of the body, how should our prayer requests change? How should our interactions with other people be affected?

Point 3 Option

Provide groups of 3-4 with a copy of the "Voices from Church History" quote from C. S. Lewis (leader p. 125) and the following questions for a brief discussion (a copy of the quote and the questions is available on the DVD in *The Gospel Project for Adults: Leader Pack*):

- Do you agree with Lewis's comparison of pleasure and pain? Why or why not?
- How can we be intentional and considerate about sharing the gospel with people who are going through painful circumstances in life?

Then call for some reflections and responses.

Christ Connection: Through His healing of the paralyzed man, Jesus demonstrated His authority over human suffering and His authority to forgive sins. By claiming to forgive sins, Jesus was putting Himself on par with God—the only One who can command disease and wipe away our wickedness.

Missional Application: God calls us to be active in bringing people to Jesus—the only One who has the power to heal our physical infirmities and forgive our sins.

Expanded Session Content

The Greater Miracle of Forgiveness

Voices from Church History

"Come, and see the victories of the cross... Christ's wounds are thy healing, his agonies thy repose, his conflicts thy conquests, his groans thy songs, his pains thine ease, his shame thy glory, his death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation."¹

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

Introduction

While meeting with a man at my job for coffee one day, I asked him to share his story with me. Knowing that I was a bivocational pastor, he led by telling me his involvement with the church from a young age. He expressed to me how he came from a line of pastors that stretched back four generations. I then asked him how he came to embrace Jesus as Savior, but he gave me a puzzled look.

Noticing he was confused, I phrased the question differently by asking him about when he heard the gospel, confessed his sins, and embraced God's plan of salvation through Jesus. While looking at me with a blank stare, I could tell he was struggling to answer the question. Finally, he broke the silence by saying he knew God saved him when he was delivered from a car accident.

I probed a little further and asked him to unpack what he meant by that. He then told me a story of when he was driving, rushing to get to his next destination, when he turned too quickly and hit a curb, which forced his car to spin out of control and crash into a tree. He said during the seconds following losing control of the car, he cried out for Jesus to protect him. After his car came to a stop and the dust had settled, he unbuckled himself and crawled out through the missing windshield. He then said he knew he was saved because God answered his prayer by protecting him from death.



If you were having this conversation with the man, how would you respond to his hope for his salvation? What would you say is missing, if anything?

Session Summary

In this session, we will see that true faith seeks Jesus not only for physical healing but also spiritual healing. Jesus is not only able to heal the sick physically but, being fully God, He is also able to forgive us for our sins and heal us spiritually. The gospel of Jesus Christ is able to heal sinners completely and make them whole.

1. Faith is portrayed as desperately seeking restoration from Jesus (Mark 2:1-4).

¹ And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

Our text opens with Mark providing important background information regarding Jesus, namely, that He was coming off of a preaching/ministry tour and was returning to His home base in Capernaum. In other words, Jesus was returning home in order to rest and recuperate from being on the road for an extended amount of time. While He was on the road doing ministry, He was healing, casting out demons, and preaching in various synagogues. Shortly after Jesus arrived home, word got out that He was back in town and a crowd began to find Him.

If we were honest, we would all be extremely frustrated if this were us. Imagine you have just returned from a lengthy ministry journey and have been away from the comforts of your own home, away from your family, and just want time alone. If you are like me, when you return home, you just want to relax and spend time at the house with family and friends. Wouldn't it then be challenging to engage a house full of people when you are exhausted and expecting time to relax in the peace and quiet of your own home? Or imagine you have stressful day at work or in school, and by the time you get home, there are cars lined up down the block with people waiting to speak with you at your house. Wouldn't you be tempted to drive right on past and just go somewhere quiet and solitary?

What we see on display in this passage is Jesus demonstrating absolute selflessness. It is true that Jesus is fully God, but He is also fully human. There are several places in the Gospel accounts where Jesus is tired from His journeys (see John 4:6) or seeking solitude for communion with His Father (Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12). This seems to be another moment where He would have been tired, exhausted, and looking forward to relaxing. Yet when people came to see and hear Him in Capernaum, He did not turn them away. In fact, Mark says, "And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them" (Mark 2:2). Jesus was always ready to engage with the crowds of people who sought Him out because He had a deep compassion for the lost.

Further Commentary

"As this chapter begins, Jesus had already performed several miracles. In chapter 1, the text says that the whole city had gathered at Peter's house to see Jesus and that Jesus could not publicly enter a city. Chapter 2 begins as a continuation of this theme. Jesus was speaking and the crowds were so large there was standing room only. Capernaum was the home of Simon Peter. This city was Jesus' base of operations in his Galilean ministry. It was a large city on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The paralytic was being carried on a bed or a small couch, probably with a friend on each corner. Mark is a master of understatement in these verses. While Palestinian homes would have been accessible to someone wanting to get on the roof, it was by no means a daily occurrence. The houses were low, usually with an outside stairway to reach the roof. The roofs were tiled and covered with thatch. The four men had to drag the cot up the stairs, tear up the tiles, and dig through the thatch. The hole would have to be large enough to get the cot through. Add to this the annoyance of the people below. Debris would be falling on them as they tried to listen to the words of Jesus. A further complicating matter would be the damage to someone else's property. We have no idea how the owner of the house, whether it was Simon Peter or someone else, reacted to the destruction of his property, but we can imagine that it came as quite a shock!"²

—Rodney L. Cooper



Voices from the Church

“We must admire several characteristics of these men, qualities that ought to mark us as ‘fishers of men.’ For one thing, they were deeply concerned about their friend and wanted to see him helped. They had the faith to believe that Jesus could and would meet his need. They did not simply ‘pray about it,’ but they put some feet to their prayers, and they did not permit difficult circumstances to discourage them. They worked together and dared to do something different, and Jesus rewarded their efforts.”⁴

—Warren W. Wiersbe

Matthew 9:36 identifies Jesus’ compassion for the people seeking Him because He saw them as sheep without a shepherd, sheep that had been abused and harassed. Matthew 14:14 says as soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat and onto shore, He felt compassion for the large crowd that was gathered to see Him, and then He healed their sick. Immediately preceding our text, Mark 1:41 says Jesus was moved with compassion and healed a man with leprosy by reaching out His hand to touch him.

The crowd now gathered at the home where He was staying obviously knew Jesus would not turn them away. Oh, that we would pray that the masses of lost sheep in our world would seek out and trust the compassion of Jesus. When we engage with the lost, may the compassion of our Savior be felt through our tender words, engaging eye contact, and openness to meet their needs. In doing this, we will reflect our Savior who has loved us in the same way.

-  What are some excuses and objections we can come up with for not engaging with the lost in order to share the gospel with them?
-  How does the compassion of Jesus Christ coming to us in the gospel overcome our excuses and objections?

With the stage set for this scene, Mark introduces new characters to the narrative, men carrying a paralytic to Jesus. These men could not enter the house in a traditional way because of the overcrowding. It’s amazing that their desire to see the paralytic encounter Jesus fueled the innovative idea to lower him through the roof of the house.

To help us understand the circumstances of this event, of ascending and then removing the roof, Walter Wessel says:

In order to understand the action these verses describe, it is necessary to visualize the layout of a typical Palestinian peasant’s house. It was usually a small, one-room structure with a flat roof. Access to the roof was by means of an outside stairway. The roof itself was usually made of wooden beams with thatch and compacted earth in order to shed the rain. Sometimes tiles were laid between the beams and the thatch and earth placed over them.³

In modern terms, imagine a house that has a fire escape on the side of it. These four men would’ve carefully and strategically made their way up the fire escape on top of the roof, all the while carrying the paralytic on his mat.

The motivation that drove these men to great lengths to see Jesus engage the paralytic was their desire to see their dear friend healed. These men had strong faith because they truly believed Jesus would restore the man physically. We can learn from these men as it relates to our family members and friends. What lengths are we willing to go to in order for them to encounter Jesus and be restored not only physically but holistically? In other words, what lengths would we go to in order to see those around us healed spiritually, emotionally, mentally, theologically, and even financially?



What motivates you to help people encounter Jesus? Why?

2. Forgiveness is assumed to be a greater need than healing (Mark 2:5).

At this point in the narrative, we get a plot twist. In Jesus' other encounters with healing people, He clearly restored them physically. But this time He went the extra mile, and it caused quite a controversy.

⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus moved beyond physical restoration to actual spiritual restoration by dealing with the man's sins. Jesus' expression of forgiveness for the man's sins was a bold proclamation that He was God.

It's easy for us to understand Jesus as full deity and humanity because we have the whole of Scripture to interact with. We know that later in His ministry, Jesus would express this truth publicly, and as a result, the religious leaders and teachers would both charge Him with blasphemy and desire to kill Him (John 5:18; 8:58-59). However, in Jesus' day, they were not privileged to have the full revelation of God that we have, and there was great tension regarding how people felt about Jesus' ability and authority to forgive sins.

In our day, it is imperative we preach the superiority of spiritual restoration over physical restoration. That is why Paul pleaded with the church in 2 Corinthians 5:20 to remind them (and us) that they are "ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." It should be our chief concern that sinners be aware of the fact that they need to be reconciled to God by placing their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Eph. 2:1-10).



Further Commentary

"Often we think we know what our greatest need is, but really we are only focusing on our circumstances. In reality the problem you are facing today is not your spouse, children, or parents. It is not your job, boss, or coworkers. It is not your lack of resources, shortage of time, or insufficient income. Just like this young man, your greatest need is for the Messiah Himself. Jesus saw everything clearly—far more clearly than we do. He used this teachable moment to make the point concerning our greatest need in this life or the life to come! Jesus forgives the sins of all who come to Him in faith."⁵

—Daniel L. Akin



Voices from Church History

"How can sins be rightly remitted unless the very One against whom one has sinned grants the pardon?"⁶

—Irenaeus (circa 125-202)



Voices from Church History

“How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer’s ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.”⁷

—John Newton (1725-1807)

99 Essential Christian Doctrines

51. Christ as Priest

As our Great High Priest, Jesus accomplishes the work of reconciling us to God. He is the One whose perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification. He is the One who intercedes for us before the Father (Heb. 7:25; 9:24) and prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

A few verses prior to Paul’s sobering call is a reminder that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Here Paul is referencing the newly restored condition of the Christian, which is the opposite of the condition we were born in. Naturally, since we’re all sons and daughters of Adam, we inherit a sinful nature from him (Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21). Not only did we inherit a sinful nature, we were also declared spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-3) and slaves to sin (John 8:34).

For this reason, God the Son left the comfort of heaven to seek and save us who were lost and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Isaiah 53:1-12 provides for us a detailed description of how Jesus dealt with our spiritual state, which included our “sin sickness.” Isaiah 53:4-5 says: “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

These prophetic words uttered by Isaiah provide us with clarity as to why Jesus the Messiah would endure suffering. He endured the cross not because of His personal sin, as the author of Hebrews reminds us (Heb. 4:15). The sins the Messiah dealt with on the cross were those of the fallen descendants of Adam. Isaiah is very clear that the Messiah suffered in the place of those who should have suffered for sin, which is all of fallen humanity (Isa. 53:6).

The primary blessing that is to be received by those who embrace Jesus as Savior is complete spiritual healing for our sin sickness. In light of this, we must understand that while we are not promised physical healing from all sickness on this side of eternity, those who trust in Jesus will never face the wrathful consequences of their sin. Believers will never face separation from God, the outpouring of His wrath, and the eternal sickness and death awaiting those who do not believe (Rev. 21:4).

So, although physical healing from injuries and sickness may come in this life by the sovereign hand of God, the greater need is for our sin sickness to be dealt with. The gospel reminds us that Jesus has done all the necessary work to remove this sickness, and when we embrace Him, we are born from above as new creatures (John 3:3-8). Those who are saved from sin are also called to share the gospel with sinners from every walk of life so that they too can have their sin sickness healed as we have—by embracing Jesus.



What are some ways we can help others understand the priority of having our “sin sickness” healed, even over our desire for physical healing?

3. Jesus relieves both temporal and eternal suffering (Mark 2:6-12).

⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,
⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed 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 say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

The scribes who were present in the house recognized with a shock that Jesus was claiming He could forgive sins. This claim made Jesus distinct from all other previous teachers and prophets. Because of this, the scribes arrived at the conclusion that Jesus was blaspheming because He was claiming equality with God, who alone can forgive sins. The irony of their accusation is made plain when Jesus backs up His claim to forgive sins by healing the man’s paralysis as well.

Jesus put His supernatural knowledge on display by addressing the internal thoughts of the scribes. He then challenged them by asking a question about which was easier: heal somebody physically and restore their ability to walk or simply say your sins are forgiven. It would be safe for someone to claim the ability to forgive sin—how could such a person be proven wrong? It’s much more difficult to claim to be able to heal someone’s paralysis because it would require immediate proof of movement, evidence of walking. But if Jesus were to heal the man and provide him with the physical ability to get up and walk, then it would show merit to His claim to have the ability to forgive the man’s sins as well.

Therefore, Jesus said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” Jesus gave the paralytic man three simple commands. Can you imagine what the people present were thinking? Here you have Jesus claiming to be equal with God, claiming to be the Son of Man, the Messiah, saying He has the ability to forgive sins like God does, and now telling the paralytic man to get up and go home! I’m sure the tension was so thick you could cut it with a knife.

Further Commentary

“Blasphemy is irreverent, profane, impious speech about God; and its penalty in Old Testament times was death (Lev. 24:16). Here the charge prepares the way for the same accusation at Jesus’ trial (14:60-64). The scribes were certainly correct that the Scriptures everywhere teach that ‘God alone,’ or better ‘One, even God’ or ‘the one God,’ can forgive sins. Nor did Jesus deny this. What they failed to recognize was that the reign of God had drawn near in Jesus and that he had authority to act on God’s behalf.”⁸

—James A. Brooks

Voices from the Church

“When Jesus heals the paralytic, saying, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven,’ the scribes rightly reason, ‘Who can forgive sins but God alone?’...Unfortunately, they draw the wrong conclusion—namely, that Jesus blasphemed, not that he is the Lawgiver.”⁹



—Bruce K. Waltke

Voices from the Church

“The announcement [of forgiveness] and presentation of radical healing to a man in his entire person was a sign of the Kingdom of God drawn near. The paralytic experienced the fulfillment of God’s promise that the lame would share in the joy of the coming salvation.”¹⁰

—William L. Lane

It is amazing what Mark records next: “And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’” (2:12). Every single person who witnessed this miracle was absolutely astonished. The Man whom they knew to be a traveling teacher now proved He was the Messiah and was equal with God. This Jesus had the power to forgive sins and restore the broken—both physically and spiritually.


-  How has Jesus astonished you and given you reasons to glorify God?
-  What are we to believe about Jesus because of His claims and His miracle in this narrative?

The normative pattern for miracles in the Bible was to validate the messenger whom God sent. His power was evident in the messenger’s life and work so that the message proclaimed would be received by the people. The message Jesus was proclaiming to everyone in His day—and still in ours—is that He alone is the only qualified Savior for fallen humanity. It is in Jesus Christ alone that we can find temporal and eternal healing.

The greatest need every human being has is to be forgiven for our sins in order to receive complete spiritual restoration to God. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.” Redemption and forgiveness for our sins are only found through the shed blood of Christ. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s plan to save sinners from the wrath we are all due. This is the core message of the gospel.

As we have looked in this text, we have identified the fact that Jesus healed the paralyzed man in order to demonstrate His authority and power over human suffering and sinfulness. It must be understood that when Jesus claimed to forgive the sins of the paralytic, He was making the public declaration He is equal to God. In doing this, He was signifying to the witnesses at the house not only His deity but also the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies they had been waiting for. Jesus alone was qualified to heal them from their spiritual sickness entirely.

All of these truths should ignite passion in our hearts to bring nonbelievers into contact with Jesus. He is the only one who can heal our spiritual sin sickness by forgiving us of our sins.

-  How does this miracle of Jesus encourage you to be bold in sharing the gospel for the spiritual healing of others?



Conclusion

Returning to my conversation with the man who knew he was saved because God answered his prayer by protecting him from death in a car accident, I pressed him further and asked how he knew Jesus had dealt with his sin sickness, not just protected him from physical death. He asked me what I meant by the phrase “sin sickness.” His response allowed me to walk him through the gospel according to the Scriptures, expressing how every human being needs to cry out to God for salvation from sin through Christ alone.

He began to weep. After he regained his composure, he looked down at the floor, balled up his fist, and began to hit himself on his thigh, screaming out, “*Why...why...why?!?*” I was startled and had no idea what was going on. So I asked him if he was okay. He looked up at me, wiping tears from both of his eyes, and said, “Why is this the first time in my life I have ever been told that I have sin and am in need of forgiveness?” He began to share his frustration with being raised in the church and never hearing this message before.

I comforted him by expressing that it was God’s grace that our lives had intersected at this point in time so that he would be able to hear the good news that Jesus alone can restore spiritually. After a few more moments of answering questions regarding the gospel, he asked me if I could help him place his faith in Jesus Christ.

There is a world filled with people who have never heard the good news of Jesus, even people who attend church. Many of them have no idea that they have inherited a sin sickness from our first father, Adam. We should personify the compassion of Christ by seeking to engage with the lost and sharing with them the good news of what Jesus has done to remove their sins in order to reconcile them to God and give them a new life in Christ.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Through His healing of the paralyzed man, Jesus demonstrated His authority over human suffering and His authority to forgive sins. By claiming to forgive sins, Jesus was putting Himself on par with God—the only One who can command disease and wipe away our wickedness.



Voices from Church History

“We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”¹¹

—C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)



Voices from Church History

“The physician’s art, according to Democritus, heals the diseases of the body; wisdom frees the soul from its obsessions. But the good Instructor, Wisdom, who is the Word of the Father who assumed human flesh, cares for the whole nature of his creature. The all-sufficient Physician of humanity, the Savior, heals both body and soul conjointly.”¹²

—Clement of Alexandria (circa 150-215)

Additional Resources

The Greater Miracle of Forgiveness

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Study Material

- "Only the Offended Party Can Forgive"—Pages 165-167 from *The God Who Is There* by D. A. Carson
- "Some Things Are More Painful Than Paralysis"—Blog post by Sam Storms; find a link to this blog post at GospelProject.com/AdditionalResources
- Previous *Biblical Illustrator* articles, including "House Construction in the First Century," can be purchased, along with other articles for this quarter, at LifeWay.com/BiblicalIllustrator. Look for Bundles: The Gospel Project.

Sermon Podcast

Tom James: "It's Only Good News If..."

Find a link to this at GospelProject.com/AdditionalResources

Tip of the Week

Teaching to the Whole Person

"The goal of Christian education must be to transform the heart so that every aspect of the person becomes progressively more Christlike. Anything less denies the radical transformational power that Christ gave us through His grace and Holy Spirit. Learning must penetrate the surface of the mind, the emotions, the will, and behavior. Heart-deep teaching must affect the innermost core of the person."¹³ In the session plans you will find questions and options that target the mind, emotions, will, and behavior.