

Mark 2:1-13 — "Jesus The Healer Forgives Your Sin!"

"Christ by his intercession answers all bills of indictment brought in against the elect. Do what they can, sin, and then Satan, accuses believers to God, and conscience accuses them to themselves; but Christ, by his intercession, answers all these accusations." **(Thomas Watson)**

As when the ram was taken, Isaac was let go; so when Christ was taken, the sinner is released and discharged **(Thomas Vincent)**.

There is not a sin in the Book of God, even now, against one of His people. Who dares to lay anything to their charge? There is neither speck, nor spot, nor wrinkle, nor any such thing remaining upon any one believer in the matter of justification in the sight of the Judge of all the earth. **(Charles Spurgeon)**

The mercy of God is as sufficient for the pardon of the greatest sins, as for the least, because His mercy is infinite. So the mercy of God being infinite, it must be as sufficient for the pardon of all sin as of one. **(Jonathan Edwards)**

The point of this account in Mark 2:1-13 is **JESUS' FORGIVENESS OF SINS**.

Background to Mark 2-3

- We could title Mark 2-3: "Jesus Meets His Critics In Galilee" - conflict in 5 areas:
 - (1) **forgiveness of sins (2:1-13)**
 - (2) fellowshiping with unclean (2:14-17)
 - (3) fasting (2:18-22)
 - (4) working on sabbath (2:23-28)
 - (5) healing on Sabbath (3:1-6)
- in each of these episodes of "conflict" - there's a 3-fold pattern:
 1. Jesus does an ACTION
 2. Jewish leaders RIDICULE
 3. Jesus RESPONDS with a word/action/miracle & silences them/stun crowds!

THESIS — Let's go to the house & see, hear, & experience this event transpire before our very eyes.

1. **Faith** of the sufferer
2. **Forgiveness** of the Savior
3. **Fury** of the Scribes

I. THE FAITH OF THE SUFFERER

II. THE FORGIVENESS OF THE SAVIOR! (5b-11)**A. FORGIVENESS:** (Neh 9.17 - He is a God of Forgiveness)

- ❖ Free - cannot do anything to merit it [gracious]
- ❖ Sufficient - it's enough; all needed
- ❖ Humbling - humbles the proud
- ❖ God-given - God gives it; God declares it

III. THE FRICTION OF THE SCRIBES! (6-7, 12-13)

the point = JESUS HAS THE POWER THAT BELONGS TO GOD ALONE.
GOD ALONE FORGIVES. JESUS FORGIVES. JESUS IS GOD.

Excurses on the Roman Catholic [RCC: Roman Catholic Church] Doctrine of “Absolution”:

This exposes the blasphemous & unspeakably evil doctrine of Penance in Roman Catholicism, specifically **absolution**. RCC says: Absolution forgives the guilt of the sin, removes eternal punishment & still may be responsible for temporal punishment in Purgatory unless an indulgence is applied. You go to a priest, confess, pray a prayer & resolve to not do it again & then the priest verbally gives an “absolution” with a fixed sacramental formula.

Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC]: the numbers are the paragraph numbers of the catechism:

- **1461** - Since Christ entrusted to his apostles the ministry of reconciliation, bishops and priests...continue to exercise this ministry. Indeed bishops and priests, by virtue of the sacrament of Holy Orders, have the power to forgive all sins “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- **1495** Only priests who have received the faculty of absolving from the authority of the Church can forgive sins in the name of Christ.
- **1498** Through indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory.

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- The **remembrance** of your forgiveness-
- The **abundance** of your forgiveness -
- The **position** of your forgiveness -
- The **merits** of your forgiveness -
- The **sin-abhorrence** from your forgiveness -
- The **duties upon you** as one who has been forgiven -
- The **joys & assurance** of your forgiveness -

All my sins have been forgiven; God is merciful to me;
 Faith has claimed the Savior's promise, Grace and pardon, full and free;
 O my soul, be ever praising For the great Redeemer's love;
 Joyous songs to Him be raising, Unto God in heav'n above.

Esther Bergen

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.
 This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect communion, perfect delight,
 visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
 Angels descending bring from above
 echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
 I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
 watching and waiting, looking above,
 filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
 There is no shadow of turning with thee.
 Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.
 As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!
 Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see.
 All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
 Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD [Geoff Kirkland]

The forgiveness that God grants to the sinner is the heaven on earth. No one can know peace with God apart from receiving this divine gift of forgiveness. The forgiveness of God can further be explained in a number of ways.

Available

In his marvelous mercy and glorious grace, God has made His forgiveness available to sour sinners and revolting rebels. God stands ready to forgive. He longs to lift up transgressions off of the sinner’s account. He desires to cover the sins of the penitent and make atonement for them. He wishes to not impute the twisted iniquities of the sinner so as to ensure his condemnation. But God, as a tender father, makes his forgiveness readily available to every person who humbly comes to him in true confession. God turns away none who really repent.

Complete

When a sinner comes to God in confession and repents of his sin, the wonderful promise of Scripture is that God forgives the guilt of the sinner’s sin. What a hopeful and complete promise! When the sinner makes known his sin before the omniscient King and when he uncovers his shameful iniquities before God, the unspeakably glorious promise is that God Himself lifts up the guilt of that sin. He takes the punishment of that sin and removes it far away and no longer holds it against the penitent sinner. He receives complete cleansing. He receives a full forgiveness. He enjoys the wonderful pardon. God forgives not part of the rebel’s wrongdoings. God does not remove part of sin’s penalty. When the sinner comes to God and confesses, God takes all the sin, all the guilt, and all the penalty and lifts the burden entirely off of the sinner. What a complete cleansing!

Irrevocable

All the promises of God are yes and cannot ever be changed. God cannot lie or change His mind. He cannot deceive or manipulate. When God forgives, he irrevocably forgives. When he washes, he thoroughly washes so as to never permit that sin to be held against the sinner again. When God forgives, it cannot be revoked. Though a human leader may revoke a promise, not so with God! Though human courts may repeal a decision, not so with God! Though a committee of power may overturn the ruling of a lesser dignitary, not so with God! God cannot revoke His promised forgiveness. He cannot remove His promise of blessing. His forgiveness granted to the repentant is irrevocable.

Freeing

As one who found himself stuck under masses of stone and rubble hopeless to ever free himself, the omnipotent arm of the Divine comes and removes all the heavy materials so the man is completely freed from the weight that held him down, so it is with God’s forgiveness. He lifts the sin off of the sinner. He takes it up and removes it entirely from the saint. God leaves no remains but completely cuts off the sin and its sentence because He frees the sinner from its overwhelming weight. The burden is lifted off. The coat of shame is removed and the pack of putrid filth is taken off. The sinner who humbly seeks the forgiveness of God finds a freeing forgiveness so as to find the weight which once pinned him down is now removed by God’s own hand.

Atoning

Peasants who revolt against the king deserve death. Those who break the judicial law reside under its sentence, its curse, and await its punishment. So it is with God. But when God forgives a pleading sinner, he promises to cover that sin. This covering is called atonement. God atones for the sinner’s iniquity. To cover is to atone; to atone is to appease; to appease is to eliminate penalty. The reason the sinner can receive atonement is because the divinely instituted covering is God Himself. God’s justice demands punishment. Yet Jesus Christ was displayed publicly as a propitiation so as to bear the Father’s wrath and thus divert it away from the heart of the penitent sinner. Thus, God provides an atonement — a covering — by being the covering Himself. Thus, in a wondrous mystery, God bears God’s wrath so that the penitent sinner can find a covering. The Lord Jesus Christ is the atonement Himself by being the Lamb, unblemished and spotless, who gives His life for those who are His own. This, then, shows why God’s forgiveness is atoning. The wrath is poured out. The Father manifests His justice. The sinner, however, is not the recipient of divine fury but the covering — the atonement — is Jesus Christ in the sinner’s stead. This is the glory of God’s forgiveness. The forgiveness from God is only found in Jesus Christ. This shows, as the Bible frequently purports, that Jesus Christ alone is the one way that sinners can find reconciliation with God. He alone cleanses. He alone suffices as their substitute. He alone brings rebels to the Father as His blood purchased atonement for them. The Scripture speaks of man’s need of being forgiven by God. Man needs to hear God say that the guilt of sin is removed. God only does this one way. There is one door. There is one gate. There is one mediator. The forgiveness that God grants — the complete, the freeing, the eternal, the saving, the sufficient forgiveness — can only be found when Jesus Christ engulfs the sinner with His righteous robe of purity. God forgives sinners only in Jesus Christ. He who receives pardon and who trusts in the Lord finds himself surrounded by the covenantal lovingkindness of God. The blessings of God’s faithful, steadfast, truthful, eternal, irrevocable, and saving love produces eternal joys!