

The Power of Jesus

1. real faith- "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

2. real need

There must be an identification of the *real* need and the man's *greatest* need.⁴ His real need is the paralysis of one whole side of his body; his greatest need is the forgiveness of his sins. Let us never lose sight of man's greatest need!

3. real power

- Jesus' power to forgive sins

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." (Isaiah 43:25)

-Jesus' perception of man's heart

"And needed not that any should testify of man: for **he knew what was in man.**" (John 2:25)

-Jesus' power to heal diseases

The purpose of the physical healing was this: He heals the outer storms to prove His power to do the other. Forgiveness cannot be seen, but the transformation of the outer life can be proven and seen.

The once-crippled sinner, then, picked up his bed, walked out of the house, and shouted, "Hallelujah!" The Messiah had come into his space, his matter, and his time— and he just got his miracle!

Resources:

¹ Retrieved from <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/mbs/trinity.html>

² Retrieved from <https://waynestiles.com/category/bible-lands/sites/via-maris-international-highway/>

³ Hutson, Curtis, 1985. *Excuses for Not Winning Souls*. Sword of the Lord: Murfreesboro

⁴ Guzik, David. Retrieved from <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/mark-2/>
Sell, Charles, 1989. *Unfinished Business*. Multnomah, pp. 121ff



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Here Comes Your Miracle | Mark 1:1-12

The last time Jesus was in Capernaum, He had sought a solitary place to which He may retreat to the Father's presence. Chapter one had become a hectic time of ministry and opportunity. Jesus had thus filled His time with calling disciples, healing diseases, teaching and preaching, and exercising authority over demonic powers, yet finding a place of rest and prayer, He was interrupted by the disciple's plea for the people. We close chapter one with the healing of a leprous man and Jesus' retreat back into prayer and solitude.

The last full house we read of in Capernaum was seen in verses 33-34 and featured a late-night healing service. Chapter two, however, opens with another full house in Capernaum, most likely the setting of chapter one's miracles. The house is full. The needy had been brought to Him. What is Jesus doing? Mark says, "He preached the word unto them." (2:2)

Jesus knew His purpose and would not be deterred from it. He had come to preach (1:38) the gospel. Now, He is back to work.

The Place of Miracles

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

- In the beginning- TIME
- God created- SPACE
- the heaven and the earth- MATTER

Moses outlines that in the Genesis account of creation, the Almighty God created these three things. In a very real sense, He created a trinity of trinities.¹

- In the beginning- TIME- **PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**
- God created- SPACE- **HEIGHT, WIDTH, DEPTH**
- the heaven and the earth- MATTER- **SOLID, LIQUID, GAS**

This verse alone marks a turn in God's dealings, signifying that His work would be within these three parameters. Not that He was bound by these, but these were bound by Him, creating the reality of man. Man to this day lives within these confines, but when God sent His son into the world to be made in the likeness of sinful man, He broke through timelessness, omnipresence,

and a spiritual reality into the world of **space** (Bethlehem, Micah 5:2), **matter** (a body, Hebrews 10:5), and **time** (Galatians 4:4-5).

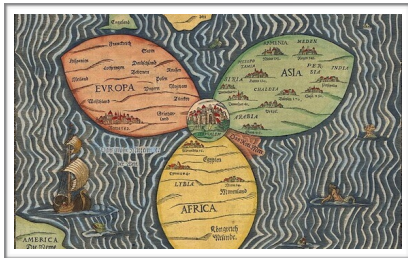
A prophecy fulfilled

“And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, **by the way of the sea**, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.” (Matthew 4:13-16)

In the days of Jesus, there were three routes one may travel north to south through the land of Israel. The first was the King's Highway, a road to the east of the Galilee and the Jordan. Then, there was the Water Parting Route (the Coastal Plain), the road which the Jews refused to travel because it traversed through the mountains of Samaria. Last, there was the *Via Maris*.

This *way by the sea* has been called “The most important international highway of the Fertile Crescent.”² It ran the length of the land of Israel by hugging the Mediterranean coast before its northeast jog through the Galilee region.

Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.” (Ezekiel 5:5)



In God's mind, then, Jerusalem was the epicenter of the earth, the hub from which other nations spoke. How awesome a thought that God's Son began His miraculous ministry in the Galilee and ended His ministry on a cross in the city of Jerusalem!

- Heaven
- Incarnation
- Bethlehem
- Nazareth
- *Via Maris*
- Capernaum
- Decapolis
- House in Capernaum
- Roof on a house in Capernaum on the *Via Maris*

- Jesus, 4 men, and 1 friend

The Persistence of a Man's Friends

The story tonight recounts the labor of four men who bring a friend to Jesus. There is no higher work, no more selfless labor than the bringing of your friend to the Lord Jesus Christ!

There work should be our work!

1. **no excuses**- *they could not come nigh unto him for the press*

The house was full. The door was blocked. There seemed to be no way to get their friend to the Lord Jesus, but these men did not rest on the pillow of excuses. They had to get their friend to Jesus!

“I'm a new convert and am not knowledgeable enough to win souls.”

“I don't have the gift of soul winning.”

“I win souls through my local church.”

“I believe in making disciples, not getting decisions.”³

2. **no exceptions**- *they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up*

These four men were freed from the prison of what others might have thought or said. The reaction of others is not in view. Though damage to the house may be a necessary function of this miracle, even the roof itself cannot be an exception. They said to one another, “We missed our miracle the first time Jesus was at work in the house, and now is our time! We **have to** get Him to the Healer!”

What they were saying is that people are more important than property or possessions. The house can be fixed. The roof can be patched. The carpet can be removed. However, our friend's soul is not so easily mended.

3. **no alternative**- *they uncovered the roof where he was:*

“We have to get him to Jesus! He is the only one who can help.” This is the spirit of true compassion. This is the spirit of true missions.

Do you remember Psalm 142:4? “I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, but *there was* no man that would know me; refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.” Think of that– this man has four friends and they are doing all they can to get him to Jesus!