



Who is this man?

Exploring the impact of Jesus

Who Is This Man...Who Forgives Us?

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Speakers: Tony Bunker and Jeff Stamps

Key Verses: Mark 2:1-12

Talk Summary:

- This passage shows that to Jesus there is a close link between healing and forgiveness, this is also demonstrated elsewhere eg Matthew 11 verse 1-5 and in the Old Testament Psalm 103 verse 2-3, Psalm 41 verse 4.
- Jesus is always intending to deal with the works of the enemy – sin and sickness – he comes that we might have life and life to the full (John 10 verse 10)
- There is an aspect to corporate faith that encourages healing – Jesus saw their faith (verse 5)
- Whilst acknowledging the reality of the 'now and not yet of the Kingdom' we need to be careful that we don't lower our expectations for God to move miraculously to heal
- God will forgive our sins if we decide to change the direction of our lives to follow him (repent), if Jesus forgave those who were executing him there is nothing we've done that he won't forgive
- Once we've asked his forgiveness we need to stop beating ourselves up about things we've done Psalm 103 verse 12 "As far as the east is from the west so far has he removed our transgressions from us", Acts 10 "do not call anything impure that God has made clean"
- We are also commanded to forgive as we have been forgiven (Matthew 18 verse 21 onwards). Forgiveness benefits us who forgive
- Forgiveness isn't forgetting, it's not a feeling (though it will lead to changes in feelings), it's not saying what happened was OK or that there won't be any consequences, it's not always a one off – sometimes it has to be repeated many times, its not the same as reconciliation.
- Forgiveness is a choice we make with God's help, Dr Gerry Breshears definition: "The personal act to release the one who sinned against me from my personal right to collect on the moral debt, to pay them back for their offence. Instead of giving them back the pain they gave me, I absorb the pain into myself with God's help."

- Other resources on forgiveness:
Dr Everett Worthington – Helping People Reach Forgiveness
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um2hLZLHens>
Bridgetown Church – Forgiving as we have been Forgiven Series of Talks
<https://bridgetown.church/series/forgiving/>

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?