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The Unexpected Jesus

Mark 2:1-12



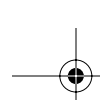
When a famous person comes to town, many people come to meet that person. They come with expectations, ones that are often belied by the person in person.



GROUP DISCUSSION. Consider this situation. You have heard that a man with great wisdom and healing power is visiting your neighbor down the street. You have been invited to come meet him. What expectations would you have? The family next door has a child with a serious health problem. What might they expect?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Think back to a time when someone offended you. What needed to happen before a good relationship between the two of you could be restored?

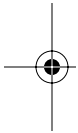




10 ————— *Jesus the Reason*

In this passage we will see Jesus handle an awkward situation. He was teaching when suddenly he was interrupted by a demand for his immediate attention. The request was for physical healing, but Jesus focused on something else first. *Read Mark 2:1-12.*

1. Imagine yourself as one of those in the house and describe the scene: the kind of people who were there, the room they were in, the events that shattered the calm of the teaching.



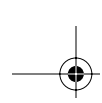
2. Describe the attitude of the paralytic and the four men as they came to Jesus (vv. 3-5).



3. When Jesus says that the man's sins are forgiven (v. 5), what do you think must have been the reaction of the man and his friends?

How would you react if the famous healer told you your sins were forgiven?

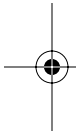




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4. Were the religious leaders justified in reacting as they did (vv. 6-7)? Explain.

5. What answer do you suppose Jesus expected from this question: "Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'" (v. 9)? Why?



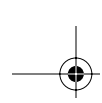
6. Why did Jesus ask the question anyway (v. 10)?



7. Describe the reactions of the crowd.

8. How did Jesus both confirm and upset the expectations people of his day had about him?





9. How, if at all, has your understanding of Jesus changed through the study of this event in Jesus' life?

Reflect on the implications of Jesus' claim to forgive sins. If you have experienced this personally, thank him now in prayer.

Now or Later

Reflect on these biblical passages that speak of God's forgiveness: Isaiah 1:18; John 1:8-10 and Romans 5:6-8. What is Jesus' role in forgiving sins?

