

Today's Message: "Mark—The Religious Leaders"

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. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 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!" (Mark 2)

...so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. (Mark 1:45)

The Religious leaders went from questioning to condemning.

The Crowds went from astonished and amazed to crucify Him.

The Disciples went from curiosity to abandonment.

"Mark"

Pastor Scott Stevens

March 18 & 19, 2017

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²² *And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:22)*

“Religious Leaders”

- Focus on preference
- Lose their passion for non-Christians
- Continually question Church authority

“Evangelism is not an option, it is a command.” - Dr. Abraham Pothen

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. (James 1)

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, (Titus 3:9 &10)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

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