

Close Encounters

The Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

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Introduction: The most popular religion today:

Moral Therapeutic Deism

I. So....what's the big deal about _____?

A. What is the *origin* of sin ~ Isaiah 14:12-15

- ♦ *Lucifer*: An angel of light who chose to be the Lord of his own life

B. What is at the *heart* of sin?

- ♦ The decision to be the *Lord* of your own life

C. What is the ultimate *result* of sin? Romans 5:12-19, Isaiah 53:6

- ♦ *Bondage* and *death* ~ Romans 6:23
- ❖ The good news is that God has made a way for sinners to be *forgiven* and *free*

II. A story of *freedom* and the characters ~ Mark 2:1-12

A. The paralyzed man and his mat

1. He was *confined* to his mat and *dependant* on others.
2. The mat represented *separation* from God and man
3. The mat represented his *brokenness*

Question: What's my mat?

B. The four men

1. They confronted the social *stigma* to care for this man
2. They confronted the physical *obstacles* to bring him to Jesus
3. Their faith prompted Jesus to *act*

Question: Am I willing to be a roof-breaking, crowd-busting, life-changing friend?

C. The religious leaders

1. They had a legitimate *concern*
2. They had a sincere belief in God that was being *challenged*
3. Their concern for guarding the faith became a *constraint*

Question: In my effort to preserve faith and my belief, what has become a constraint?

D. Jesus Christ

1. He *cancelled* sin
- ♦ Your sins *have been* cancelled, are *now* cancelled and will *forever be* cancelled
- ♦ "*Issumagijoujungnainermik*": not being able to think about it any more
2. He *confronted* unbelief
3. He *confirmed* his authority to forgive sin by physically healing the man

- ❖ Jesus does what we *can see* so we can know that He is able to do what we *cannot see*

Question: Who is Jesus and what am I asking Him to do in my life?