

General Church Education



Family Lesson: Mark 2
Healing the
Paralyzed Man

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Healing the Paralyzed Man
Mark 2

Family Talk
HEALING THE PARALYZED MAN

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Lesson: *Mark 2:1-17*
Divine Providence 33 and 119 (as quoted at end)

You have to picture crowds and crowds of people, flocking to see the Lord. The great things that the Lord was doing made to many people want to come to Him that He couldn't go into a town or city openly or the crowds would be too big. The last verse of Mark 1 says that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every quarter.

And so for days He was receiving people out in the country, and then He did come into the town of Capernaum, and went into a house. Word of this got around very quickly:

“It was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together so that there was no longer any room to receive them, not even near the door.”

Something now was going to happen that made the crowds even more amazed. They would soon be saying, “We never saw anything like this!” And let us realize that it wasn't so much what they saw with their eyes, but what this meant. Yes, it would have been amazing if He had just made a man well, but the way He did it showed people something that amazed them much more.

Four men came carrying a paralyzed man, hoping that they could get near to Jesus to have the man healed. But there was no way they could get near with such a crowd. What they did was to climb up on the roof and make an opening in the roof big enough to lower the man down to where Jesus was.

Every eye must have turned to see this sight of a man being lowered down by ropes. It was clear that the man could not walk, and naturally people wondered whether the Lord could make the man well. Surprisingly, the Lord spoke to the man, not about his sickness, but about something else. He said:

“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”

Nobody said a word, but they certainly spoke inside themselves when they heard that. Some scribes were sitting there, who said in their hearts:

“Who can forgive sins, but God only?”

And so they were saying in their hearts that this man had no right to say that or to speak such blasphemy.

Jesus knew their thoughts and spoke to them. To show or demonstrate to them that He did indeed have the power to forgive sins, He told the man to get up and walk. First He said:

“That you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins...”

and then He spoke to the paralyzed man. So the crowd realized that if they saw the man walk it would be showing them also something they could not see. And that was the power to forgive sins. What would this mean about who this man Jesus was? For indeed,

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

And so it had a very powerful effect on people when the man got up and walked:

“so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”

Now, again we can picture crowds coming to Him, and they are having new thoughts as to who He is:

“Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them.”

The news that Jesus could forgive sins would mean the most to people who wanted to be good but had done wrong things in the past. There were a number of people like that, who up to that time probably did not dare come to the Lord. (Maybe the crowds would not let them near Him anyway.) Such people were known by a man named Levi (also known as Matthew), for he himself was a most unpopular man. People would have nothing to do with him, because he collected taxes for the Romans.

The Lord walked by him and said two words:

“Follow Me.”

These are words all of us should hear, and we should also hear the Lord’s words about anyone being able to have the Lord come. We will speak of that in a moment.

First we see Levi (or Matthew) getting up and following the Lord. His was not to be the life of an outcast. He was going to be one of the Lord’s disciples.

You could say that Levi (or Matthew) put on a great party. It is simply said in Mark that the Lord dined at Levi's house. But in Luke it is said:

"Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house."

And who came to this feast and sat down with the Lord? Other people who had done wrong in the past, but who really wanted to live a good life. It was as if they had been inwardly sick, and a great physician had come to see them. Their lives could change for the good.

And that picture of those people eating with the Lord (people who might not have seemed worthy of this to others) brings us to one of the beautiful sayings of the Word. The Lord says:

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the Door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3: 20).

It is said in *Divine Providence*:

"That the Lord enters when the door is opened by man's effort He clearly teaches as follows:

*BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND
KNOCK: IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE
AND OPENS THE DOOR....*

The door is opened by man's removing evil by shunning and turning away from it" (DP 233).

"Anyone can see from reason that (evils) block the way and close the doors before the Lord, and that these cannot be cast out by the Lord so long as man himself holds the doors closed, and by pressing and pushing from without prevents their being opened. That man himself ought to open them is clear from the Lord's words in Revelation:

*"BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND
KNOCK: IF ANYONE HEAR MY VOICE
AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN
TO HIM AND WILL SUP WITH HIM AND
HE WITH ME" (DP 33).*

"The Lord continually urges man to open the door to Him, as is clear from His words in Revelation" (DP 119).



Healing the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2

LEVEL 1 – MAKING A SCENE OF THE STORY

MATERIALS NEEDED

Clay or playdough
Blocks or small box
Small piece of fabric
Twigs, and string

1. Make the people:

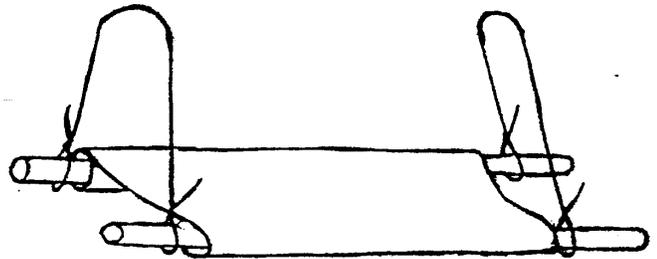
Using clay or playdough, model two figures—the Lord and the paralytic.

2. Make the house:

- Build a small house with no roof.
Use a simple set of blocks, Or cut an opening in the bottom of a cardboard box and set it upside down over the figure of the Lord.
- Also cut a door for the man to walk out with his bed.
- Paint or draw windows on the house.

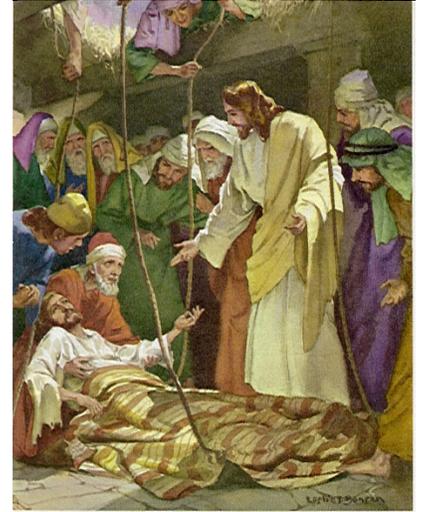
3. Make the “stretcher”:

- Fold the edges of a small piece of fabric around two small twigs, and attach with pins or glue. Tie the string to the ends of the twigs.
- Tie string to the ends of the twigs.



4. Lay the paralytic on the “stretcher”.

Let the child’s fingers represent the four men who let the bed down to the Lord inside. Then have the child roll up the bed and carry it out with the man, after he is healed by the Lord’s touch.



PLAYDOUGH

1 cup table salt
1/2 cup cornstarch
3/4 cup cold water

Stir constantly in double-boiler over heat. When very thick, turn out on foil.

When cool enough, knead like dough, then wrap and store in refrigerator.

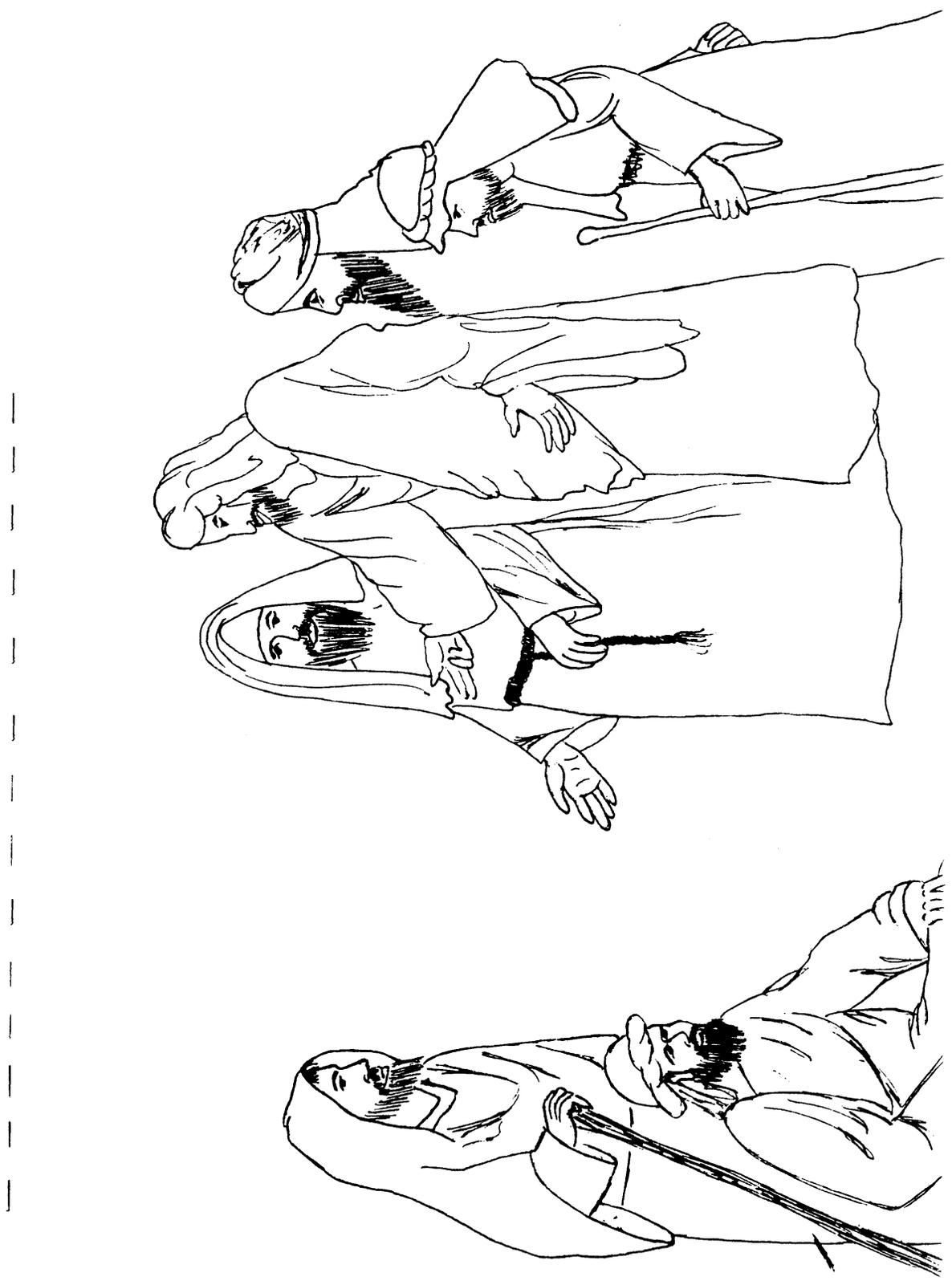
Healing the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2

LEVEL 2 – HEALING THE PARALYZED MAN



1. Color the picture on page 2 and the one on page 3
2. Cut out the picture on page 3 (perhaps your mother or father can help you cut between the ropes).
3. Cut the slit on the picture on page 2.
4. Lower the sick man through the roof to get help from the Lord





Healing the Paralyzed Man
Mark 2
LEVEL 3 – NEW WINE AND OLD WINESKINS

In this chapter, Jesus says,

“No one puts new wine in old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins” (v. 22).

When the Lord was in the world the new teachings that He gave were not always consistent with many of the old laws **created by the Sadducees and Pharisees**.

The Lord points out that the Sadducees and Pharisees were too concerned about following all their laws exactly, and lost sight of what is really important, like love to the neighbor.

The new teachings (new wine) replaced many of these old laws (old wineskins). However, the Old Testament laws **given by the Lord** were not discarded—but He expanded on them and filled them with deeper meaning.

Application

Look at the columns on the next page.

- a) In the left-hand column is a list of examples of old laws taken from the Old Testament.
- b) In the right-hand column are new truths which give the old laws deeper meaning.
- c) The columns are scrambled. Match up each “law” on the left with a teaching on the right, by putting the letter for each new teaching next to the number for each law.

* * * * *

Note: At the end of the Sermon on the Mount it is said that:

“The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7: 29).

The Lord's teaching was powerfully NEW.

When He said, *“And I say unto you...”*, people listened with astonishment.

1 "It has been said
to those of old,
'You shall not
swear falsely, but
shall perform your
oaths to the
Lord.'"

A "And I say to you,
love your enemies,
bless those who
curse you, do good
to those who hate
you, and pray for
those who
spitefully use you
and persecute you
(Matt. 5: 43,
44).7"

2 "You have heard
that it has been
said, 'You shall
love your neighbor
and hate your
enemy.'"

B "Not what goes into
the mouth defiles a
man, but what comes
out of the mouth,
this defiles a man"
(Matt. 15: 2, 11).

3 "It has been said,
'Whoever puts away
his wife, let him
give her a
certificate of
divorce.'"

C "And I tell you not
to resist an evil
person. But
whoever slaps you
on your right
cheek, turn the
other to him also"
(Matt. 5: 38, 39).

4 "And the Pharisees
said to Him,
'Look, why do they
do what is not
lawful on the
Sabbath?'"
(picking grain)

D "And I say to you,
do not swear at all
. . . But let your
'Yes' be 'Yes,' and
your 'No,' 'No'"
(Matt. 5: 33, 34,
37).

5 "You have heard
that it has been
said, 'An eye for
an eye and a tooth
for a tooth.'"

E "And I say to you
that whoever
divorces his wife,
except for
fornication, causes
her to commit
adultery" (Matt. 5:
31, 32).



6 "Why do your
disciples
transgress the
tradition of the
elders? For they
do not wash their
hands when they
eat bread."

F "The Sabbath was
made for man, not
man for the
Sabbath" (Mark 2:
24, 27).

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LEVEL 4 – MIND READING

Sometimes a key point in a New Testament story is that the Lord could read what was going on in people's minds. For *“He knew what was in man”* (John 2: 25).

The story in Mark 2 is an excellent example of the Lord's knowing what is going on inside a person's mind and heart. When the man was lowered down through the roof and Jesus told him his sins were forgiven, people did not *say* what they were thinking.

“Some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts... (verse 6).

“And immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, 'Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?’”

Can someone other than the Lord tell what is in the mind of another person? Maybe one can get a tiny fraction of an idea of what is in the mind of another. For years there have been tests, notably at Duke University, to see if some people have some extra sensory perception. Your project will be to try such a test as it appears in the magazine SCIENCE WORLD. And the purpose of it is to emphasize what a miracle it was for the Lord to be able to know exactly what was in people's minds.

You may have heard that Emanuel Swedenborg had extra sensory perception. The truth of the matter is that because he was allowed to be conscious both in the spiritual world and the natural world, he was on occasion able to learn things that would not have been possible to others. The Lord prepared Swedenborg for a most important work—giving us the Writings. His impressive talents and accomplishments have been noted by people who do not even realize why he was so prepared. (We are including a sample of an item from Ripley's *Believe it or Not*, which you might enjoy.)

Application

First try out the “test” from SCIENCE WORLD on the next page. Then answer the three questions given at the end of that test:

- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
-

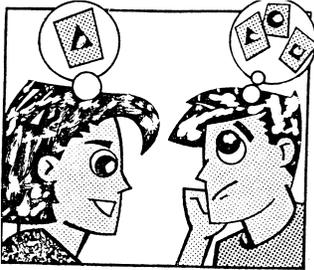
Do you think you can actually read the mind of another person?

Does the Lord know what is in our minds and hearts?

***“Then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart you know (for You, only You, know the hearts of all the sons of men.”* (I Kings 8:39)**

A Test On Extrasensory Perception

(from *Science World*)



How might you tell when someone who seems to have ESP is just performing a carefully designed trick?

Here's how you can test your friends for ESP:

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

Twenty-five 3" x 5" index cards blank on at least one side
A set of crayons, and a pad and pencil
(for record keeping)

WHAT TO DO

- 1) Using the crayons draw a symbol on five cards.
This could be a geometric shape such as a circle or a square. Do not press down very hard or the shape of the symbol may show through the back of the card (Make sure it doesn't!).
- 2) Now draw a different symbol on five other cards.
- 3) Repeat until you have five sets of five different cards.

Clairvoyance

- 1) Choose a number of subjects to test: friends, classmates, or relatives.
- 2) Before the test show the subject the five symbols.
- 4) Shuffle the deck of cards. Place the deck face down in front of your subject. Make sure that at no time the subject sees the faces of the cards.
- 4) Ask the subject to guess the symbol of the top card. Record the guess on your pad. Turn over the card. Indicate on your pad whether the guess was correct
- 5) Shuffle the deck and repeat. Do this 25 times with each subject.

Telepathy

- 1) In this experiment you will use two subjects, a sender and a receiver. Each will be in a different room.
One will be the sender, who will look at each card and try to "send" the image on the card to the receiver in the other room.
- 2) For this experiment you will also need two observers, one in each room.
The observer in the sender's room records the symbol of each card viewed by the sender. The observer in the receiver's room records the receiver's guess.
- 3) After the experiment is over, the observers compare notes to see how many correct guesses were made.

YOU BE THE SCIENTIST — Questions to answer:

- 1) How many correct answers would you expect simply due to chance?
- 2) How many correct answers do you think you would need to show clairvoyance or telepathy.
- 3) Assuming that telepathy exists, what two factors might influence its success?

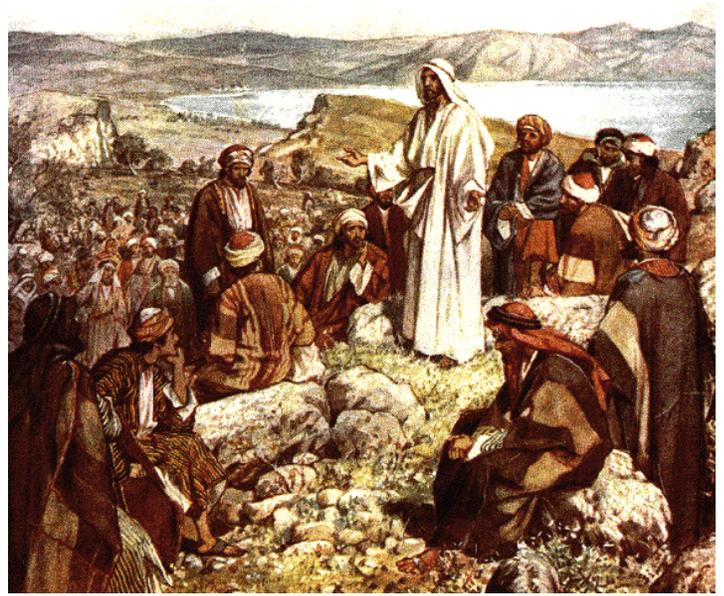
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LEVEL 5 – THE LORD’S MINISTRY

During the Lord's life on this earth, there were two main parts of His ministry:

1) The healing of the sick



2) The teaching of His Word



The Lord performs these two functions in each of our lives, too. He heals our spiritual illnesses, such as hypocrisy or selfishness, and He teaches us the way to heaven.

Application

In the first two chapters of Mark, both of these functions are abundantly illustrated. Look through the first chapter from verse 21 on, and the second chapter, and see if you can find at least six incidences of His healing and six of His teaching. Can you find one verse in which He *teaches* about His *healing*? Copy the verses in the chart on page 2.

If you get stuck, some hints are on page 3, but don't check them until you have found all you can on your own!

VERSE TEACHING ABOUT HEALING

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Verses about
HEALING

Verses about
TEACHING

VERSES ON HEALING

1: 25-26

1: 31

1: 34

1: 39

1: 41

2: 5, 12

VERSES ON TEACHING

1: 38

2: 10

2: 20

2: 21

2: 22

2: 27

2: 28

VERSE ON BOTH

2: 17