



A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY, MARK 2:1-12

A Question Of Authority

- When CRH took over
- Scribes in Jesus' day held the religious authority
 - Scribes in ancient Israel were learned men whose business was to study the Law, transcribe it, and write commentaries on it
 - They believed they were responsible to protect the integrity of Scripture
 - They held positions of power, prestige, and honor
 - They believed they held the power to define and identify the Messiah

A Question Of Authority

- Scribes in Jesus' day held the religious authority
 - John the Baptist has already identified the Messiah, but they did not accept his testimony or baptism, it was unsanctioned by them
 - So early in Jesus' earthly ministry He begins to take control of His identity and His purpose for coming

Scripture

- **Mark 2:1-12 NIV**, 1 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Scripture

- **Mark 2:1-12 NIV**, 6 Now some teachers of the law (*Scribes*) were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 - 8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? 9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

A Question of Authority

- When you come to Scriptures as these you must ask yourself, “What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit preserving them for us?”
 - **John 21:25 NIV**, 25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.
 - You must take the entire narrative and examine it to grasp what Jesus is doing here
 - If not, you will think this is a truth on the process of getting Jesus to, “Do what you want Him to do”
 - All it takes is getting four friends to agree with me that would carry me if paralyzed to Jesus then dropping me in front of Him

A Question of Authority

- When you come to Scriptures as these you must ask yourself, “What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit preserving them for us?”
 - Jesus recognizes and rewards their faith but remember He has healed 100s of people so they know He can heal, but will He
 - **Mark 1:40 NIV**, 40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

A Question of Authority

- When you come to Scriptures as these you must ask yourself, “What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit preserving them for us?”
 - Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom of God and move people toward righteousness through repentance
 - **Mark 1:38 NIV**, 38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

A Question of Authority

- When you come to Scriptures as these you must ask yourself, “What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit preserving them for us?”
 - He used miracles for proof in who He is and the truth of His teaching
 - **John 10:36-38 NIV**, Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’? 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”
- So here we have another interruption in Jesus’ teaching, and He uses it to demonstrate who He is and His authority

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 5 NIV** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”
 - The mindset of the Scribes and people was this man was a sinner that showed itself in his paralysis
 - **John 9:1-2 NIV**, As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 5 NIV** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”
 - This man could not physically do the works commanded by The Law
 - He was alone, an outcast of society and assumed God as well
 - What he needed was something far more important than physical healing – forgiveness bringing spiritual healing
 - To be right with God

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 6-7 NIV**, 6 Now some teachers of the law (*Scribes*) were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 - This was the right question they should be asking
 - **Psalm 103:1-3 ESV**, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity...”

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 6-7 NIV**, 6 Now some teachers of the law (*Scribes*) were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 - This was the right question to ask they should be asking
 - **Psalm 103:12 NIV**, 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
 - But the man is still paralyzed, there is no proof of forgiveness
 - Jesus pulls apart the false teaching that all sickness, brokenness is the result of sin

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 6-7 NIV**, 6 Now some teachers of the law (*Scribes*) were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 - So in their hearts, they accuse Jesus of blasphemy – great disrespect shown to God or to something holy, or to something said or done that shows this kind of disrespect
 - I do not think they have sinned yet but taking every thought captive to bring it into obedience of Scripture, the mind of God

Jesus startles the people by making a claim that only God can make

- **Vs. 6-7 NIV**, 6 Now some teachers of the law (*Scribes*) were sitting there, thinking to themselves, 7 “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 - **2nd Corinthians 10:5 NIV**, 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
 - **Message**, “We use our powerful God-tools for smashing warped philosophies, tearing down barriers erected against the truth of God, fitting every loose thought and (*loose*) emotion and (*loose*) impulse into the structure of life shaped by Christ.”
 - They were asking the right question but reaching the wrong conclusion

God in His grace validates Jesus' statement of authority

- **Vs. 8 NIV**, Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?”
 - **ESV**, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”
 - This should have been a clue to them as well because only God knows what is in the heart of a man
 - **Psalms 139:2 NIV**, “2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.”

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 - **Psalms 139:23-24 NIV**, “23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

God in His grace validates Jesus' statement of authority

- Jesus asks them a question in **Vs. 9 NIV**, “9 Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?”
 - Not easiest to do but easiest to say
 - Easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, it can't be immediately proved
 - Harder to say, “Get up, take your mat and walk” because it would be immediately proved
 - Jesus then gives them and us the reason for this healing and the proof needed

God in His grace validates Jesus' statement of authority

- **Vs. 10-12 NIV**, “10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, 11 “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.
 - Now what are you going to do with this Scribes?
 - **Vs. 12 NIV**, This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”
 - I think they were praising God for the healing they had seen
 - When the real miracle was the forgiveness of this man's sins by the authority of Jesus Christ
 - We have no response from the Scribes recorded

The wholeness that came to this man was not earned

- This man did nothing to deserve forgiveness and healing
 - It wasn't earned by his friends
 - It was only by the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**, 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.
 - You don't have to understand it all or have it all figured out
 - **Romans 10:13 NIV**, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **Joel 2:32** as well

The wholeness that came to this man was not earned

- I cannot guarantee God will heal you physically or emotionally at this time
 - But I can guarantee God will save you today if you call upon Him in faith trusting His work for you on the cross as Jesus bore your sin debt
 - **1st Peter 2:24 NIV**, 24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”
 - I can guarantee God will supply everything you need here in this life
 - **Philippians 4:19 ESV**, “19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

The wholeness that came to this man was not earned

- I can guarantee God will one day heal all your needs, hurts, cares, injustices, will wipe away your tears... when we receive our glorified bodies to be with him throughout eternity
 - **1st Corinthians 15:42-44 NIV**, “42 It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. 43 Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. 44 They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.”
 - I can guarantee these only because that is what Scripture tells us

A Question Of Authority

- It's still a question of authority today
 - The Scribes did not want to give their authority over to Jesus
 - They did not want to bow their knee and give him their authority over Scripture nor their lives
- We have the same decision to make today
 - Have you, will you give Jesus complete authority over your life
 - Have you, will you simply use your ability to choose to accept Jesus as your Lord and Master becoming His disciple

A Question Of Authority

- **Joshua 23:14 NIV**, You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.
- **Joshua 24:14-15 NIV**, 14 “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”



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