

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

TAKING IT HOME

1. Read **Mark 2:13-14**.

- What personally stands out to you?

- Given that Levi was viewed as corrupt, how would Jesus' inner circle have felt when Jesus invited Levi into their group?

- What lessons can WE learn from Jesus invitation to Levi?

2. Have you ever wondered if God would be willing to forgive YOUR sins? In what ways does this story show you God's power and willingness to forgive sins?

God's willingness to forgive us is what motivates us to forgive others. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive?

3. This weekend's teaching highlighted 3 major obstacles that people often experience when it comes to faith, and how Jesus removed them. Is there one that resonates with you the most?

Jesus IGNORED certain religious protocol.

Jesus claimed authority to FORGIVE sins.

Jesus was uncomfortably COMFORTABLE with unrepentant sinners.

MESSAGE NOTES

The Rest Of The Story // Week 2

MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" **Mark 1:14-15**

3 obstacles Jesus removed:

1. Jesus _____ certain religious protocol.

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean." Moved by compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: "Don't tell anyone about this. Instead go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed." **Mark 1:40-44**

2. Jesus claimed authority to _____ sins.

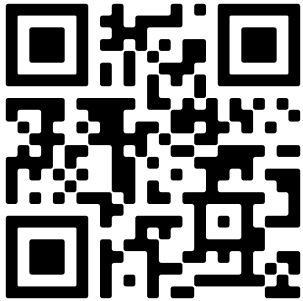
Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!" **Mark 2:2-12**

3. Jesus was uncomfortably _____ with unrepentant sinners.

Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again & taught the crowds that were coming to him. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me & be my disciple," Jesus said. So Levi got up & followed him. **Mark 2:13-14**

PERSONAL NOTES

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“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” *James 1:22*



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of our Groups are currently in session. We encourage you to take these questions home with you and **WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS.** Use it for personal study, or with your Group!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1. What was your favorite concert that you've ever attended? What made it so great?

- 2. As you reflect on the talk from this weekend, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1. Read **Mark 1:38-45.**
 - In what ways can you personally identify with the isolation of the leper? Have you ever felt “shunned” by a group of people? Why?

 - The text says that Jesus was “angry” - but not angry at the leper - angry that anyone would be in this situation. What does that tell you about Jesus?

- 2. Read **Mark 2:2-5.**
 - We've all had unanswered prayers. Have you ever felt like you've been BLAMED for not having enough faith? We don't find that in the heart of Jesus - where do you think that might have come from?

 - How does this story help you understand faith more completely?