

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 8:1-9 & Mark 2:1-12. What strikes you as you read?
2. According to David, who are we in the grand scheme of God's universe?
3. How does Psalm 8 begin & end? Why is that important? What's significant about vs 2? (Mt 21:15) What do you think could happen if instead of lament we offered praise in times of trial?
4. Notice how in verse 2, even the witness of "children & infants" defeats those who oppose God. How confident are you in your witness to God's work in your life in the face of opposition? If "not very much," why? How much bolder should the church be?
5. How does it make you feel knowing that God is mindful of you & cares for you? How important is it to remember that God knows you intimately & cares for you? Is there someone in your life that needs to be reminded that God cares for them?
6. Why do you think the religious "leaders" kept such a close watch on Jesus? Why would they have been so keen on someone they were sure was a fraud?
7. How do the four men carrying the paralytic demonstrate faith? In what areas of your life might God be calling you to demonstrate bold & creative faith like these men?
8. Do actions always show what people genuinely believe, whether or not that's the same as what they **say** they believe? Explain your answer.
9. Why do you think Jesus doesn't heal the man physically straight away?
10. How would you answer the question Jesus poses to the scribes? Jesus gave his followers not only the authority to cast out demons, but also to forgive & heal. How often do you exercise the full authority that is yours in Christ?
11. At the end of the account we read that all the people were amazed. Do you think the religious leaders were amazed or perhaps bitter? Why could they not rejoice?
12. What are the deepest needs humans have? How does Jesus meet those? How might this paralytic's physical condition also resemble someone's spiritual condition?

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Lent – 10th March 2024

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONGS: *How Shall I Call You (LHS 880)*
Kyrie Eleison (AT 564)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Psalm 8:1-9

- ¹ O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.
- ² You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength,
silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.
- ³ When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you set in place;
- ⁴ what are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?
- ⁵ Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honour.
- ⁶ You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority —
- ⁷ the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals,
- ⁸ the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.
- ⁹ O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Mark 2:1-12

¹ When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. ² 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, ³ four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷ "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

⁸ Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? ⁹ Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” ¹² 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!”

FAITH CHAT:

1. Who regularly leads me to Jesus? If the answer is “no one,” why?
2. Who am I leading to Jesus? If the answer is “no one,” who would you like it to be?

THE MESSAGE: *DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH A “W”: WORKS*

OFFERING SONG: *This Life I Live*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation:

Lord, we hold material blessings greedily & claim good fortune with little thought to generous sharing. Lord have mercy.

Lord, we take love for granted, show meagre gratitude, & struggle to love those vastly different from ourselves. Christ have mercy.

Lord, we treat faith as our doing not remembering that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Lord have mercy.

The Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion: VIDEO – GOODNESS OF GOD (Maranatha)

Post-Communion Blessing:

Response:

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Let those who are redeemed celebrate it!

Those who have been reclaimed from deep trouble, share it!

*Though we were dead, God made us alive with the grace of Christ
through whom we are rescued and healed.*

***Thank you God for such unwavering love,
for such wonderful deeds for the children of earth.***

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God...

Christ’s work continues through you!

-- Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *I am Carried (P&W 835)*

SHOW HIS LOVE

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