

Rise, Pick Up Your Bed; Mark 2:8-12

I. Power and Authority

- A. Power — The ability to act or produce an effect (Merriam Websters)
- B. Authority — The right to control and command (BDAG)
- C. We should not confuse the two, even though the definitions overlap —
 - 1. The definition of power also overlaps that of authority — possession of control or authority
 - 2. But in this text, they are two different things

II. Power

- A. Mark 1:44–45 (ESV); ⁴⁴ and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.
- B. By the end of the 1st chapter of Mark, Jesus is known for His power to heal — so much so that He is mobbed wherever He goes
 - 1. People see that He has the power to cast out demons
 - a) Mark 5:1-13
 - b) Power over the realm of Satan and demons
 - 2. People see that He has the power to feed them
 - a) Mark 6:30-44
 - b) Power over the realm of the earth
 - 3. People see that He has the power to heal their illnesses
 - a) Mark 6:53-56
 - b) Power over mankind
- C. Power is important
 - 1. If someone does not have the power to do what they said they would do, we wouldn't pay any attention to them
 - a) If I said I would pay off all your debts you would laugh — everyone knows I don't have those kinds of finances
 - b) If Bill Gates told you he would pay off all your bills you would celebrate — we all know that Mr. Gates has the ability — the power — to pay off your debts
 - c) After witnessing Jesus cast out demons, feed 5000, raise the dead, and heal many people, the crowds knew that Jesus had the power
 - 2. There is a difference between lame and crippled — crippled brings with it the idea of missing or deformed limbs
 - a) Matthew 15:30 (ESV); And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them,
 - b) Mark 3:1–6 (ESV); ¹ Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³ And he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come here.” ⁴ And he said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?” But they were silent. ⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.
- D. Jesus had the power to heal

III. Authority

- A. Jesus power (through the Holy Spirit) also validated his authority
 - 1. Matthew 11:2–6 (ESV); ² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to

- come, or shall we look for another?”⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”
2. John 10:24–25 (ESV);²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.”²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me,
 3. John 10:37–38 (ESV);³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me;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 am in the Father.”
 4. Matthew 28:18 (ESV); And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- B. Now we come to our text, the paralytic
1. Mark 2:1–7 (ESV);¹ And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
 2. Forgiveness is not what the paralytic was looking for!
 - a) His friends tore the roof off Jesus’ home
 - b) They lowered him down so that Jesus would heal him
 - c) Jesus compassion and love are clearly seen here — there is no rebuke for the friends who tore off the roof, only praise
 - d) And Jesus says, “your sins are forgiven”?! — He did this, of course, on purpose
 - e) Jesus shows his authority first — then his power
 3. Mark 2:8–12 (ESV);⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’?¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”
- C. “Which is easier”
1. The scribes are upset, “He is blaspheming!” — a crime punishable by death (Leviticus 24:16)
 2. Jesus’ authority to forgive sins is verified in His power to heal the paralytic — He tells us that, “but that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”
- IV. Pick Up Your Bed
- A. Jesus has the power to heal you, to cleanse you of your sin
 - B. Jesus has the authority to forgive you
 - C. There is only one response to Jesus