

The Gospel of Mark
Jesus Forgives
Mark 2:1-12

We have created a world where everything is performance-based. We have performance reviews in our jobs because companies determine our worth based on our performance. We are graded in school based on our performance. We even engage in relationships with others based on performance in that relationship. It is no wonder that we have a hard time wrapping our minds around a gospel that is not performance-based.

1. Forgiveness comes by faith in Jesus.
2. Forgiveness reveals the love of God.
3. Forgiveness ultimately glorifies God.

We know that everything spiritual has some sort of physical representation because that is the only way we can see spiritual truth. Jesus used pictures to communicate spiritual truth, pictures that were easily understood in the physical realm. Here, Jesus gives us a physical picture of what just took place spiritually. The man gained strength in his legs through Jesus' healing, but he gained strength in his spirit through Jesus' forgiveness. The same is true for us. Jesus may heal our circumstances, but His priority is our spirit.

For further consideration:

What are some of the more important questions a thoughtful person should ask about life? How is faith in God's ability to do something through us related to our persistence in getting it done? When you see someone who has been marginalized by society, maybe they are crippled or starving or homeless or poor, is that all you see, or do you see the possibility of their need for salvation as well? Why is it easy to point at someone and make statements or assumptions about their spiritual state? How do we overcome the temptation to do that? What is the difference between circumstances and needs? How can the church avoid getting caught up in addressing circumstances and focus on the true needs of the people in the community it is called to serve?