

Be Someone's Neighbor

By: TC Lo 盧天賜 at HoCL on July 3, 2011

Whenever Jesus preached, the people were amazed at His teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law (Mk. 12:17). Time and time again, Jesus demonstrated His wisdom by the way He answered questions put to Him by men with evil intent. Jesus not only was powerful in His speech, He was powerful in His deeds also---He cleansed the leprosy, opened the eyes of the blind, healed the lame, cast out demons, calmed the storm, walked on water, and more. No wonder Jesus drew large crowd wherever He went.

- Mk 2:1 **A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.**
- Mk 2:2 **So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.**
- Mk 2:3 **Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.**
- Mk 2:4 **Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.**
- Mk 2:5 **When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."**
- Mk 2:6 **Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,**
- Mk 2:7 **"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**
- Mk 2:8 **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?**
- Mk 2:9 **Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?**
- Mk 2:10 **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He said to the paralytic,**
- Mk 2:11 **"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."**
- Mk 2:12 **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 paralytic is a person without freedom; he couldn't fix his breakfast, go to bed, get a drink, nor go to bathroom. In a spiritual sense, we are paralytics too because we are bound in sins, we are not free to do the good we want to do; we are not free to restrain the evil we try to avoid. How wretched we are! We all need Jesus to set us free. Jesus said, "I am the Truth; and the Truth shall set you free." Moreover, we should be like the four men who brought their friend to Jesus so he might be set free. We should get involved in this "freedom ministry" as we are celebrating the *Independence Day* today.

God gave one commandment to Adam and Eve and they failed to keep it. Then God gave us through Moses the Ten Commandments. The Jewish people expanded the 10 Commandments into 630 laws, why? This is the problem of legalism. Then came Micah who reduced the 630 laws into three: To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Jesus amazingly summed up all laws into one: (1a) Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (1b) Love your neighbor as yourself.