



The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

FORGIVENESS: YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

“We never saw anything like this!”

Mark 2:12

Mark 2: 1-12

During the Lenten season one of the most reflected themes are repentance and renewal. When we whole-heartedly repent our sins and shortcomings before our Almighty God, He is faithful and just and will forgive all our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the scripture portion, Mark has introduced a paralytic person, who was brought before Jesus, was forgiven and healed. In this event Jesus was criticized for His authority to forgive.

1. Human response to absolute claims: When there is an absolute claim arises about faith or any human related things we may not able to digest it or take it as it is. Here also the people around Jesus dislike His absolute claims. When the paralytic was brought to Him it was so difficult to get to Jesus that they break through the fragile roof to get the man into the midst of Jesus.

2. Faith of others matter: It is because of their faith and the healing encounter with Jesus that blessed and healed the person. Who should have belief when a sick person is brought for healing? Anyone! It might be the person praying. It might be the sick person. It might also be the friends of the sick person. The faith of the paralyzed man's four friends initiated. For many people, the difficult part of enduring a severe illness is helplessness, the need to rely on others for basic functions of daily life.

3. What are we worried about ?: Jesus does not say much about his sickness. Instead He says, ‘Your sins are forgiven’. Evidently the sick man was more worried about his sinfulness than he was about his sickness. Most people are more worried about their sickness than about their sins, but this man is concerned about his sins. Perhaps his sickness had been caused by sin. This can happen, although it is a mistake to think that all sickness is caused by sin.

Forgiveness is essential to the new community around Jesus. This story reminds us that forgiveness is central to healing. Today’s psychoanalysis says, deep-seated, irrational guilt and self-hatred can generate imprisoning physical symptoms. This event clearly tells us that ease with which Jesus can heal and forgive each and every one of us who comes to Jesus in faith.

Prayer:

May our participation in the great lent with a repenting heart helps us to move closer to Jesus and will give us healing and forgiveness in its fullness. Amen.

– Rev. Jacob Varghese