

Choose

Mark 2:1-12

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Most of us have problems. But sometimes what we think is the problem isn't the real problem.

In the first part of this story Jesus doesn't seem to understand the man's problem. (Mark 2.1-5)

- But in reality, He does. Jesus sees the _____ the problem.
- A lot of times we don't see the problem behind the problem in our lives today.

Jesus is the only one _____ the problem behind the problem. (Mark 2.6-8)

- Jesus' actions show that _____.
- Because He is God He is the only one who can _____ in us all.
(Mark 2.8-12)

Even today, Jesus can fix the problem behind

_____.

- Jesus still cares about the issues we deal with, and He wants to help fix them.
- But Jesus knows that lasting change doesn't come from just addressing the issue on the surface.
- Lasting change only comes when Jesus addresses our " _____ " problems by first fixing the problem " _____ " of us, the problem behind the problem.

Today you need to choose:

1. Who do I know that needs me to bring them to Christ? _____

What is one thing I can choose to do this week, no matter how small, to bring them one step closer to Christ?

2. Is there a problem behind my problem? If so, what is it? _____

What do I need to do to allow Jesus to get to work on the "problem behind my problem?"

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- Have you ever made extra work for yourself by trying to fix a problem that wasn't your real problem? Talk about a time when you did that and why.
- The text notes that Jesus worked a miracle in this man's life because of faith—but it wasn't the sick man's faith. It was the faith of his friends, the ones who brought him to Jesus (verse 5). How did that work? What role did their faith play in this all? What lessons can you draw from that today?
- How did you answer the challenge at the end of the sermon today? Can you share the commitments that you wrote down with someone else?
- Why do you feel like God had you here today? What element of the worship gathering had an impact on you, and what do you need to do as a result of what you experienced?
- Today's sermon covered only a small piece of Mark 2. Spend some time talking about the rest of the chapter with your friends or family. What jumped out at you as you read it?
- In what ways are the other stories in Mark 2 like this one? How are they connected to Jesus' statement about having authority? What do they teach us about Jesus? How do they ask us to respond to Him?
- In the rest of this chapter Jesus says some very challenging things—about who we interact with and what we do. How do those things challenge you to live differently today?

Next step: Here is something you can do this week to dig deeper:

- This week read Mark 3 each day. It'll take less than ten minutes each day. Next week's sermon will be focused on that chapter, so reading through the chapter this week can help you get more out of the sermon.

