

CONN³CT

Small Group Bible Study

Mark 1:40 - 2:17 The Murder Plot Begins Pt 1

February 5, 2012

Begin by discussing or reflecting on the following: Would you rather be sick and confident in God's presence, or completely healthy and completely without Him?

Read Mark 1:40 & Leviticus 13:45-46. What do we know about this leper from these two passages? What risk was he taking by coming and kneeling before Jesus?

Read Mark 1:41-42. What is surprising about Jesus's immediate reaction, and what does Jesus prove about Himself through this?

What was this man healed from? (just the skin disease, or more?) Continue with verses 43-45. Why would Jesus tell this man to stay quiet, and what is the significance of telling him to go to the Priest?

Continue with Mark 2:1-5. Imagine you are one of the 4 men who carried the paralytic to Jesus. What are you hoping Jesus will do? What DOES Jesus do?

The story continues with verses 6-11. What led Jesus to physically heal the paralyzed man? What was more important to Jesus, the man's physical condition or his spiritual condition, and why is understanding this so important when we take our requests to God in prayer?

Finish with verses 12-13. Does it mean anything that Jesus does not tell the former paralytic to stay quiet? What distinguished this healing from that of the leper according to public perception?

What made the teachers of the law angry in this incident?

Now continue with Mark 2:13-16. How did they feel about Jesus's interaction with the tax collectors and other sinners? Thinking back to Jesus's reason for healing the paralyzed man, did they get it?

What word did the teachers of the law use to refer to the sinners who were spending time with Jesus? What did they assume about themselves through saying this?

Have you been guilty of calling down others, or holding your own perceived righteousness over theirs?

Jesus responds to them (and us) with verse 17. What is Jesus saying about His reason for coming, and what is He saying to these teachers of the law through this?

Jesus words were the beginning of their plot to murder Him.

We know where the teachers of the law stood. Where do you stand? Are you in need of a doctor, or do you *think* that you are righteous?

