

JESUS' AUTHORITY

WEEK 5

10. Why do you reason about these things in your heart?

11. Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Arise, take up your bed and walk"? Mark 2:8-11 (NKJV)

8 Right away Jesus understood in His spirit that they were reasoning like this within themselves and said to them, "Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your stretcher, and walk'? 10 But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He told the paralytic, 11 "I tell you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go home." Mark 2:8-11 (HCSB)

8 Jesus knew right away what they were thinking, and said, "Why are you so skeptical? 9 Which is simpler: to say to the paraplegic, 'I forgive your sins,' or say, 'Get up, take your stretcher, and start walking'? 10 Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both . . ." (he looked now at the paraplegic), 11 "Get up. Pick up your stretcher and go home." Mark 2:8-11 (MSG)

Reflections:

When my wife and I moved from Tennessee to Georgia, we put our house in Tennessee on the market. In Georgia, we lived with a family from the church where we were ministering for about 6 months, then we rented a home. Our house didn't sell for one year. I was working a full-time job plus part-time at a church, and my wife was pregnant. We made two house payments for 6 months. As you can imagine, we had some very tight months. One day we received a letter in the mail from a friend from West Virginia. She explained in her letter that the Lord had laid on her heart to send the letter and the check (\$500). Amazingly, we had not been in touch with her for 3 or more years. I think I know how the paralytic felt when his friends came to his aid. It would be easy to call what happened to us as a "coincidence", however, I feel confident that it was surely God's providence and provision. I also think that God uses many things "to get our attention". After all, He is the Giver of life and the Giver of all good gifts.

Questions to Ponder:

- a. What are the times in your life that you have felt paralyzed?
- b. Do you let your skepticism get in the way of believing that God is in control?
- c. Can you think of circumstances in your life that can only be explained by God's power and provision?

Prayer

Lord, help us to overcome our skepticism and begin to trust You as our source of strength and power. Amen