

Don't Get Crowded Out

Mark 2:1-12

Disciples bring people to Jesus (1-4)

While crowds form audiences for Jesus' teaching and are the object of his compassion, Mark never describes the crowds turning to Jesus in repentance and belief, as the gospel requires. What crowds do best is obstruct access to Jesus.

Crowds	Disciples
Stand/Sit	Follow
Listen	Act
Passive	Persistent
Express doubt	Express faith
Block access to Jesus	Bring people to Jesus
Hinder ministry	Promote ministry, even if it is costly

Jesus has the authority to forgive and heal (5-12)

The paralytic and his four friends believed that Jesus could meet their deepest needs.

Jesus meets the man at his point of need—both spiritual and physical.

The religious leaders were appalled. By claiming to forgive sins, Jesus was claiming equality with God. Unless he spoke truth, he was speaking blasphemy.

Jesus can heal a man of physical paralysis, but can he heal someone of spiritual paralysis? Jesus wants the scribes to “know”, that is, to experience firsthand the authority by which he forgives sins.

Through this miracle, the people were forced to recognize that the man had been healed AND forgiven.

Because Jesus can forgive and heal, we should bring people to him.