

WEEKLY SERMON

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Our Fundamental need

Mark 2:1-12

What is your most fundamental need? I guess food, shelter, health and security are the primary needs of all and we work hard to meet our needs.

However, all humanity longs to meet a much deeper need which we can't earn with hard work. This need is eternal security which means eternal life. The bad news is we are sinners and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Sin is our disobedience to God. It is like a disease hidden inside us. It separates us from God and without God there is no life. We cannot earn forgiveness of sins. We need forgiveness and only God has the prerogative to forgive.

The good news is God has sent his Son Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. In our reading we see Jesus heals a man who was paralysed. But before Jesus heals this man, he says to him, 'son, your sins are forgiven' (5). Here Jesus deals with the hidden and deep-rooted disease first. Because he knows that sin is the most dangerous illness which kills for eternity.

We all have a hidden and deep-rooted disease of sin and Jesus offers the forgiveness of sins to all. Just like he forgave the paralysed man he has the same power today. Jesus is God and he has the authority to forgive sins. In the present world sin has become irrelevant. It is not taken seriously by many. Many believe that this is a thing of an old and rotten culture and religion. People say, 'I don't sin' and therefore, 'I don't need any forgiveness'. But the Bible says sin is real and hidden inside each human being. When we encounter Jesus, our sinful nature is revealed. Jesus not only exposes our hidden and deep-rooted disease of sin but also deals with it. He sacrificed his life on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have you ever looked inside yourself? Have you ever identified your most fundamental need? If not, then come to Jesus. He has the power to expose our hidden disease and to heal it through his power and authority to give life eternal. Our eternal security of life is only available in Jesus. Whoever you are you just need to make yourself available to Jesus; come to Jesus, confess your sins, repent and believe in him for eternal life.

**Rev Munawar Din, Area Dean of Burnley Deanery and
Vicar of Brierfield St Luke (in plurality with) Burnley St Cuthbert**

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES