

8 June 2014: Preached by Rev Quek Suan Yew
Topic: **Life of Christ – Power to Forgive Sins!**
Scripture Text: Mark 2:1-13

1. All of us have power to forgive sins for another person who has hurt us. Forgiveness always comes with someone having to bear the blunt of the hurt. For reconciliation to take place, the person who has been hurt must be ready to forgive and the person who hurt another must seek for forgiveness.
2. In Mark 2:1-13, the sin is not between 2 persons but between God and man, the sinner. What is the pre-requisite for God to forgive the sins of man? The way of man to obtain God's forgiveness is to do good deeds hoping to cancel the sins we have committed. But to obtain God's forgiveness of our sins, we must approach in God's way.
3. The way to obtain God's forgiveness is only by faith in Jesus Christ. This was demonstrated by the 4 friends and the man with palsy who came to seek Jesus for healing. This was only the beginning of Jesus' ministry but they knew fully that Jesus is God and only He can heal the man with palsy. In the OT, the people knew that sickness is due to sin and only God can forgive sin.
4. The 4 friends and the man with palsy demonstrated true faith in Jesus Christ in that nothing is going to stop them from coming to Jesus. The house was crowded but they went to the roof and then lowered the palsy man down to Jesus. True faith in Jesus is not a feeling. We will confess and come to Jesus at all cost, even to suffer persecutions.
5. Jesus told the man with palsy that his sins be forgiven. As only God can forgive sins, Jesus showed very clearly that He is God incarnate, Emmanuel, God with man. Jesus can forgive the sins of this man because He knew that He would go to the cross to pay the penalty of his sins. Jesus died on the cross for our sins! He has the power to forgive all our sins.
6. Sadly the scribes who were so close listening to Jesus in the house would not believe in Jesus. They saw the deity of Jesus when He healed this man of his palsy and forgiving his sins. The hearts of the scribes hardened against God and their end is only condemnation in the Lake of Fire.