

# Real Jesus

## Opening Text: Mark 2:1-12

This is an important passage about Jesus. The meetings and events in Capernaum and particularly this miracle, were so important that all the four gospels mention them.

## Jesus and His city

**Matthew 9:1** says, “*So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to **His own city***”

*His own city!* - Capernaum. Not Bethlehem or Nazareth, where He was brought up. Why? Because He saw faith there. Therefore, Jesus doesn't mind calling it '*His own city*'. That is the kind of city that pleases the heart of Jesus -a city of faith like Capernaum and not a city of doubt like Nazareth.

Capernaum was the city of at least 9 very powerful miracles. This was also the city where Jesus chose 3 of His disciples: Peter, Andrew and Matthew.

Capernaum means “city of comfort”. Isaiah prophesied about it in Isaiah 40. He also prophesied in Isaiah 9:1-2 that the Messiah was going to minister in this area. Capernaum was not a pure Jewish community but a rather mixed one. It had the nickname of “*Galilee of the Gentiles*”. This northern area of Israel was also raided multiple times in History and the scenario of its many wars.

So, Jesus came to dwell among this people and minister comfort, healing and hope to people that had been under attack for generations and that were ethnically very diverse. This was *His own city*.

## Jesus and His house

**V.1** - *And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard **that He was in the house***.

*He was in the house* – The word in the Greek used here for *house* actually means “*home*”. Jesus was at home.

We don't really know whether Jesus owned a home. Most scholars believe that this was in fact Peter's home. However, the Greek plainly says, “*he was at home*”. The point is that Jesus *felt at home* here.

**If we want the real Jesus to move in a real way in our lives today, perhaps we need to pay attention to those things that make Him ‘feel at home’.**

(By the way, remember that the home of Jesus is no longer Capernaum; today the house of Jesus is His church - **Hebrews 3:6<sup>a</sup>** -*but Christ as a Son over **His own house, whose house we are** ...*)

**1 - We need to learn to host His presence**

We need to acknowledge, honour, and understand how to host the presence of Jesus.

There is a certain protocol to His presence: it is called worship. There is certain a key to see Him manifest His presence: to love Him

**John 14:21<sup>b</sup>** – *he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him”.*

## **2. We need to learn those things that attract Jesus**

Jesus felt right at home with people of faith and people hungry to be in His presence. He felt at home with people that saw no limitations to get to Him: if they couldn't get in the door there was always the roof! This is what I call 'over the top faith'.

## **3. We need to understand what belongs in the in the house of Jesus and what doesn't**

In our text we have a glimpse of what happens in the house that Jesus is happy to call His own:

### **a) The word of God is preached.**

**V.2** - *Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.*

### **b) People come to Jesus**

He is the focal point. It is all about Jesus

**V.3** – *Then they came to Him bringing a paralytic*

### **c) The Gospel preached is a complete, full gospel.**

In verse 5 Jesus announces forgiveness of sins and in the following verses healing. The real gospel as we saw 3 weeks ago is a complete package that includes forgiveness, deliverance, healing, provision, wholeness.

**Psalm 103:3** - *who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,*

### **d) Strange things are likely to happen**

**V.12<sup>b</sup>** – *we never saw anything like this*

**Luke 5:26** – *“We have seen strange things today”* or, as the **Amplified Bible (AMPC)** puts it, *“ And overwhelming astonishment and ecstasy*

*seized them all, and they recognized and praised and thanked God; and they were filled with and controlled by reverential fear and kept saying, We have seen wonderful and strange and incredible and unthinkable things today*

**e) There is always room for one more in the presence of Jesus**

The ones 'outside' matter to Him, just as much as those already inside.

I don't think that the paralysed man was seen as important, or as a priority by those who already had their seats inside the house. However, this passage shows us that those on the outside matter to Jesus and that there is always room for one more in His house.

**Conclusion**

**V.1<sup>b</sup>** ... *it was heard that He was in the house.*

The world needs to know that the real Jesus is in the house. The world needs to know that the church is not some dark place absent from the presence of Jesus. No. He is in residence. This is His house. His presence is with us!