

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

Mark 2:1-12

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- How far would you go for things you love?
- How far would you go for the faith?
- How much would you give up for Jesus?

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- How about leaving your home, family, and job all on the same day?
- How about going back to your beginning and be born into poverty with your family on the run from the law?
- How about leaving your relationship with the godly people here and spend all of your time with prostitutes, drug addicts, and the homeless?
- How about permitting people to call you names, lie about you, and throw garbage on you?
- How about taking the place of a murderer sentenced to death on the gurney and taking his needle in your own arm, and while dying, listen to him laugh at you for taking his place?

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- Jesus did those things to find us
 - He left the glory of heaven to come here to save us
 - He accepted His own birth in a smelly stable to live among us
 - He shared His Divine perfection with imperfect people like us
 - He allowed Satan to tempt and attack Him so we would believe He understands us
 - He preached a message He knew would lead to His death
 - He allowed people to curse and abuse Him rather than killing them in anger
 - He died in His enemies' place while they were doing this to him

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- Faithfulness is determined by what one does, not by what he intends
 - Luke 12:42 - “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?”
 - 1Cor. 4:2 - “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- Matt. 25:21, 23 - "His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord... 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'"
- 2Tim. 4:5-8 - "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

How Far Will We Go To Be With Jesus?

- The men opened the roof to get their friend to Jesus
 - Mark 2:1-5 - “And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 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. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, Son, your sins are forgiven you.”
 - Luke 5:19 - “And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.”

How Far Will We Go To Be With Jesus?

- Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch
 - Acts 8:26-30 - “Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, Go near and overtake this chariot. 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, Do you understand what you are reading?”

How Far Will We Go To Be With Jesus?

- Paul endured much to bring the Gospel to his Jewish countrymen
 - Rom. 9:1-3 - “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”
 - Rom. 10:1 - “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.”

How Far Will We Go To Be With Jesus?

- Would you go as far as Philip and Paul?
 - 1Peter 2:2 - “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”
 - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”

How Far Will We Go To Be With Jesus?

- Desire to worship: How often do we miss?
 - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- Desire for knowledge: Do we attend Bible classes?
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- If we will not go out of our way for these, how far will we go?

How Far Will We Go To Have Our Sins Forgiven?

- Why did Jesus declare this man's sins forgiven?
 - Mark 2:5-7 - “When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, Son, your sins are forgiven you. 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

How Far Will We Go To Have Our Sins Forgiven?

- Because of his faith and the faith of those who brought him
 - John 6:29 - “Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

How Far Will We Go To Have Our Sins Forgiven?

- Matt. 8:5-13 - The faith of the centurion; he came to Jesus, but knew that it was not necessary for Jesus to come to him
- Matt. 9:20-22 - The faith of the woman who was ill; she knew that she would be well if she came to Jesus and merely touched Him
- Matt. 15:21-28 - The Canaanite woman came to Jesus even though she knew she was despised by the Jews

How Far Will We Go To Have Our Sins Forgiven?

- Would we oppose our families and friends to have our sins forgiven?
- Would you ask for a different work schedule in order to prove your commitment to the One Who washed you from your sins?

How Far Will We Go To Receive Blessings In Jesus?

- These men came seeking a physical blessing and received both a spiritual blessing and a physical blessing
 - Mark 2:8-12 - “But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise, take up your bed and walk? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" -- He said to the paralytic, 11 I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house. 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, We never saw anything like this!”

How Far Will We Go To Receive Blessings In Jesus?

- All spiritual blessings are in Christ
 - Eph. 1:3-8 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence”

How Far Will We Go To Receive Blessings In Jesus?

- We are given blessings from heaven - v. 3
- We are given the state of holy blamelessness - v. 4
- We are adopted as children of God - v. 5
- We are accepted in Christ - v. 6
- We are given redemption and forgiveness - v. 7
- We receive wisdom and prudence - v. 8
- Given the choice between the two, the spiritual blessings are greater and longer lasting

How Far Will I Go to Find Jesus?

- Perhaps to my own cross?
 - Matt. 16:24 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”