

#### **Study 4 MK 2:1-12 - Read Mark 2:1-12**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Mark 2:1** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**Q. Looking at the background of v1-4, how would you describe the scene?**

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**Q. Once again, who is at the centre of the commotion?**

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**Q. How does Jesus respond to this situation? (V2)**

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**Q. What might give us a hint that the people were interested in other things?**

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**Q. Compare what the men in v3-4 were looking for and Jesus' answer in verse 5. What stands out?**

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**Q. Do you think there is any correlation between sin and sickness? (Think through the implications of Jesus' preaching, see 1:15)**

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There isn't a detailed account here of whether others in the crowd needed healing. We do see however that Jesus response to this large crowd is to preach to them. His first priority is in line with 1:15 to teach repentance which leads to belief. It's no surprise then that when these men lower their friend through the roof, the content

of the discussion centres directly around forgiveness of sins. Whether Jesus directly links illness with sin, or whether he is preempting the hard heartedness of the teachers of the law we can only speculate. We do know for instance that God's response to Israel's disobedience manifested itself in sickness and plagues etc. (see Deut 28:58-60, JN9:1-2 and 1 Cor11:28-30).

**Q. Why do the teachers of the law accuse Jesus of blaspheming b/c he says to the paralytic 'son, your sins are forgiven'?**

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**Q. How does Jesus respond to their accusation?**

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**Q. What does Jesus say is the purpose of the miracle?**

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**Q. What does the miracle prove further to this, to everyone around Him?**

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**Q. So far we've seen Mark pulling in various proofs or evidence to back up his conviction of 1:1, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. What are these evidences?**

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So far in Mark's gospel, authority seems to be at the forefront of Mark's portrayal of Jesus. Jesus has authority to call people to him, he teaches with the true authority of God, He has authority over the demonic world and in this scene claims and displays through his authority over sickness that He even has the authority to forgive sins.

**Q. Thinking about His mission of preaching a message of repentance and belief in Him, is this all that people need to have forgiveness and a relationship with Jesus?**

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**Q. What is repentance and can it be seen as a form of works?**

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**Q. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross if repentance and belief in Him is all that is needed for forgiveness?**

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Spend some time thinking about someone you can ask to church over the next week, or someone who may like to go through these passages of Mark's gospel with you one to one. Pray that they may hear the call of Jesus, bringing them to repentance.