

# Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man

## Mark 2: 1-12

Christ Church: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Brief summary of the passage:

In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus publicly forgives a man's sins. The same event is also described in Luke 5:17-26 and Matthew 9:2-8. A paralyzed man is lowered through the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching. Instead of healing him immediately, Jesus declares that he and his friends' faith has resulted in God forgiving his sins. The Teachers of the Law (Scribes) are horrified. They accuse Jesus of blasphemy, their first such charge in the gospel of Mark. In order to validate His assertion that He does have authority to forgive sins, Jesus heals the paralyzed man as well.

### Some things to think about (for Connect groups and others)

Icebreaker question: When have you been part of a 'crowd'? Did you like it?

General questions to review the passage:

1. What is Jesus doing inside the house? v.2
2. What unusual thing happens? v.3-4
3. Jesus says: "Son your sins are forgiven"? Why? v.5
4. Describe what is going on in the minds of the Teachers of the Law v.6-7
5. In what 2 ways does Jesus give strong indication that He is God and has authority to forgive sins? v.10-12

6. Why do the crowd leave saying "We have never seen anything like this!"? Talk about the differing perspectives of a) Jesus, b) the man and his friends, c) the crowd, d) the Teachers of the Law.... and how the perspectives would influence how they would respond.

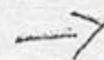
### **Additional questions:**

About Jesus -

1. Jesus is revealing the problem of the human heart. What is the problem?
2. What insights into Jesus' character do we get from the passage?
3. Jesus knows what the Teachers of the Law are thinking; Psalm 139 says "God perceives our thoughts from afar". How does this make us feel?
4. Why does Jesus address the Paralyzed man as "Son"?

About the Paralyzed Man and his Friends -

1. Why did the friends go to such great effort to get the Paralyzed Man to Jesus? Think of adjectives to describe their behavior. What is the relationship between faith and their works.
2. Before the healing, what was the outer and inner 'self' of the man like? What changes happen to him inwardly and outwardly?
3. If, close to his death, the Paralyzed Man was asked the question "why was this day the best day of your life", what would his answer be?



About the Teachers of the Law -

1. How do we know they did not really care about the Paralyzed Man?
2. Why are they so far removed from repentance?

About Us -

1. What does the man 'rising' mean to us?
- 2 Do we share Jesus' priority? Do we think about our neighbour's need  
For forgiveness?
- 3 How can we continue to be "amazed" and give glory to God?
- 4 Has the scripture made us think differently about anything?
- 5 What challenges us? What comforts and encourages us?  
For what are we thankful?

### **Useful Scriptures about forgiveness**

Acts 10:43

Matthew 6:12, 14-16

Mark 1:4

Acts 2:38