



Mark 2: 1-12

¹ When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the

QUESTION 1:

An interesting point to note in the Gospel of Mark is that this is the first time Jesus and the Scribes are at odds, accusing him of blasphemy for forgiving the sins of the paralyzed man. In ancient times, only God was believed to have this authority in the Jewish belief. Ultimately, this is the charge Jesus will face before the Sanhedrin, who then turn him over to Pilate for execution.

What does this passage mean to you? Do you see it in a new light with this information?

QUESTION 2:

How does Jesus here represent a threat to the established order?

What are the implications of Jesus' healing this man?

paralytic ¹¹ “I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.” ¹² And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

ANSWERS