

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS — YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Mark 2:1-12 (ESV) ¹ And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic — ¹¹ “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Introduction: Most of us can remember the headlines of our lives—“Congratulations! It’s a boy/girl!”; “I now pronounce you husband and wife!”; “You’re hired”; “You’re fired.” The headlines include the exhilarating and the devastating. What about this headline? “Your sins are forgiven.” These are some of the most wonderful words anyone can hear!

I. **A Determined Faith** — vv. 1-4

- Jesus was “preaching the word.” His preaching comes first, then his deeds. His miracles validated his divine power and authority.
- The most common attribute of “the crowds” is that they *obstruct* access to Jesus.
- Close proximity to the gospel or good preaching does not guarantee a positive response. The folks at Capernaum enjoyed Jesus’ ministry presence a lot. He preached sermons and performed miracles there, but his ministry seemed to have little effect on the inhabitants.
- The four friends demonstrate a persistent, determined faith. They took action. They showed themselves to be committed followers of Jesus.

II. **A Forgiving Savior** — vv. 5-10

- Was Jesus saying that the man’s sickness was the result of his sin?
- Jesus shows that forgiveness of sins was this man’s greatest need.
- The scribes are the true paralytics.
- Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Rise, take up your bed and walk”? Obviously, it’s much easier to say “Your sins are forgiven” than to say “Stand up and walk.” The first one is not verifiable. The second one is much harder to say because if the person doesn’t get up and walk then you open yourself to instant ridicule.

III. **A Glorified Savior** — v. 12