

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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### *Forgives*

#### **Scripture Passage: Mark 2:1-12**

#### **The Point: Jesus has the authority to forgive sins.**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

- A. To forgive sin is truly a divine matter. We might forgive someone who has harmed us on a human level, but only God has the authority to forgive sin.
- B. While Jesus was preaching in a crowded house, four men opened a hole in the roof and lowered a paralyzed man inside the room.
- C. Jesus saw their faith and forgave the man's sins.
- D. Some scribes in the room accused Jesus of blasphemy for pronouncing forgiveness of sins.
- E. To demonstrate His authority to forgive, Jesus then healed the paralyzed man, instructing the man to stand, take up his mat, and go home.

#### **II. FAITH EXPRESSED (Mark 2:1-5)**

- A. Following the healing of a man with leprosy, Jesus' reputation became so widely known that He had to stay for a time in unpopulated areas of Galilee (v.1).
  - 1. He may have been in Peter or Andrew's home.
  - 2. "it was reported" = the news of Jesus spread, He was very popular.
- B. The place was packed to such an extent that the doorway was blocked and no one could enter (v.2).
  - 1. Jesus was explaining to them the scriptures.
- C. "they" = were a larger group but only four of them were able to carry him (v.3).
  - 1. Mark emphasized the group's compassionate determination to get the paralyzed man to Jesus.
  - 2. We do not know how long and how the man became paralyzed.
- D. Evidently there were some unwilling listeners to give way and allow the man to be brought before Jesus (v.4).
  - 1. The roof was used as an outdoor living area and had outside stairs.
  - 2. They had to work through several levels.
- E. Jesus reacted differently than the rest of the crowd (v.5).
  - 1. "seeing their faith" = the four friends as well as the man.
  - 2. "son" = Jesus' genuine compassion.
  - 3. Jesus met our greatest need: forgiveness of sins.

#### **III. AUTHORITY QUESTIONED (Mark 2:6-7)**

- A. Some religious leaders present in the crowd silently questioned what Jesus said to the paralyzed man.
- B. "scribes" = interpreters and teachers of the Hebrew Scriptures, including the Law of Moses (v.6).

1. They had been given the best seats. They were looking to condemn Jesus.
- C. The scribes silently accused Jesus of blaspheming when He dared to declare the paralyzed man's sins to be forgiven (v.7).
- D. The scribes correctly interpreted the Scriptures regarding the source of forgiveness but they failed to understand the truth revealed about Jesus.

#### IV. **POWER PROCLAIMED (Mark 2:8-11)**

- A. Mark reveals another aspect of Jesus' divine power, the capacity to know others' thoughts and true motives (v.8).
- B. Anyone could say to the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven, how could anyone know if his sins were forgiven or not (v.9).
- C. The scribes and the whole audience needed to know who Jesus was (v.10).
  1. "the Son of Man" = He was the promised messiah.
  2. He has the authority to forgive sins.
  3. "know" = to understand by seeing evidence.
- D. Jesus' three-step command was purposeful (v.11).
  1. "get up" = exercise faith.
  2. "mat" = obedience, proof of change.
  3. "go home" = be a testimony to others of what God had done.

#### V. **AUTHORITY DEMONSTRATED (Mark 2:12)**

- A. "immediately" = no hesitation.
- B. They were in shock but soon began praising God for what had happened.
- C. The miracle supported Jesus' earlier claim and confirmed His identity as God's Son.

#### VI. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Jesus offers forgiveness to all who approach Him.
- B. Forgiveness of sin can only be granted by God.
- C. As the Son of God, Jesus has the authority to forgive sin and bring healing to His creation.
- D. Jesus has the power to forgive and to heal, which moves us to act obediently, invokes our awe, and causes us to worship Him.
- E. Teaching Ideas
  1. Create Interest
    - a. Have the group discuss what it means to have a fresh start.
  2. Closing Challenge
    - a. Commit to spend 15 minutes doing nothing but thanking God for the forgiveness of your sins.
- F. Don't Forget!!!
  1. Forgives & Mark 2:1-12
  2. Jesus has the authority to forgive sins.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at [gabaptist.org/groups](http://gabaptist.org/groups) for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at [facebook.com/GABaptistGroups](https://facebook.com/GABaptistGroups). Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org).