

# King's Authority to Forgive Sins

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Mark 2:1-12

## Introduction

**Mark 2:1-12** 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!"

**Luke 5:17-26** One day as He was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup>When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." <sup>21</sup>The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup>Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

**Matthew 9:1-8** Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. <sup>2</sup>Some men brought to Him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." <sup>3</sup>At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" <sup>4</sup>Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? <sup>5</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>6</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>7</sup>And the man got up and went home. <sup>8</sup>When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

## I. Crowds (1-2)

- A few days later
  - Some time had passed
  - This is after He had been in the wilderness, outside of cities (**Mark 1:45**)

**Mark 1:45** *Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to Him from everywhere.*

- Jesus goes back to Capernaum
  - Capernaum is his home base—*He had come home*
- Crowds
  - This is a mob, jammed inside and outside
  - Immovable mob
- Jesus was preaching the word
  - That was his purpose—**Mark 1:14-15, 38**)

**Mark 1:14-15** *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

**Mark 1:38** *Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*

**Note:** He was preaching the gospel, the good news of the kingdom of God. He preached that everyone needed to repent and believe.

- Crowds were a barrier to Jesus
  - v4—no room for anyone to get by
  - These people were not interested in spiritual things
  - They were there to see miracles
  - Unsympathetic to the paralytic man
  - Gospels indicate that the size of the crowd does not indicate success

**Note:** Luke states that the Pharisees are in attendance as well as scribes, and these men are from all over. Now Pharisees and scribes are traveling to hear Jesus speak.

## II. Paralytic Man (3-5)

- Carried by four men
  - Paralytic was on a mat
- Paralytic
  - We do not know what kind of disease or accident the man had
  - He could have been quadriplegic
- Could not get to Jesus because of the crowd
  - This did not stop the men!
  - Note the contrast between the crowd and the men
    - Crowd did not move for the needy man, indifferent
    - Four friends desired their friend to be healed
    - They did something
- Faith in action
  - They went on the roof and located where Jesus was standing
  - made an opening

**Luke 5:19** When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

**Mark 2:4** 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.

- Removed the tiles
- Dug through mud – thatch mix that is over the wooden beams
- 4 x 6 hole—enough to drop a mat in it
- Dangerous work!
- Jesus saw
  - Their faith (including the paralytic man!)
  - This was not just human faith, but divine faith
  - Repentant faith
- Your sins are forgiven
  - Jesus grants complete forgiveness to paralytic (and not to his four friends)—why?
  - Helpless situation—grants the paralytic forgiveness
  - Spiritual healing before the physical healing
  - Note that Jesus forgives the man’s sins **APART FROM WORKS!**

### III. Scribes (6-9)

- Scribes = teachers of the law
  - First mention of the scribes in Mark
  - First conflict mentioned here
- Thinking to themselves
- Blasphemer or God
  - When Jesus said “Your sins are forgiven” they had two choices:
  - Jesus deceiving people and lying = blasphemer
  - Or Jesus is God and can forgive sins
  - Their view that God can only forgive sins is accurate
- Jesus knew their thoughts
  - Only God can know thoughts (demons cannot read thoughts)

**1 Samuel 16:7** ...the LORD looks at the heart

**1 Kings 8:39** ...since You know his heart (for You alone know the hearts of all men)

**1 Chronicles 28:9** the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts

**Jeremiah 17:10** I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind

**Ezekiel 11:5** I know what is going through your mind

- Why are you thinking this?
  - This is not what you should be thinking about
- Which is easier to say
  - Sins are forgiven

- Or rise up and walk
- To people, it is easier to say your sins are forgiven because you cannot prove it
- Physical healing can be proven and verified
- Demonstration of His authority
  - Command the paralytic to rise up and walk
  - Proof that He has the power to heal and the authority to forgive
- Son of man
  - Why did Jesus call Himself this?

***Daniel 7:13-14*** *In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. <sup>14</sup>He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.*

- Title of humility
- Not a messianic term
- He uses this to hide Himself from Messianic crazed crowds

#### **IV. Crowds (10-12)**

- Man obeyed and glorified God
- Crowd praise God...but

***Matthew 9:8*** *When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.*

- They saw Jesus as man, not God