

Q7.What was the reactions of all who witnessed the incident?

The paralytic man

His four friends?

The guy who owned the house?

The Scribes

Would that have solved the matter for the scribes?

Q8.How does this incident help Mark's goals?

Giving evidence that can prove who Jesus was (1:1)

The remarkable wisdom and authority of Jesus.

Help His reader repent, believe and be saved (Mark 1:15; 16:15-16)

*Studies in Mark's Gospel*

## ***The Best News Ever***

# **3.Jesus Can Forgive Sins**

Mark 2:1-12

*From 2:1-3:6 Mark groups together five controversial incidents from Jesus' early Galilean ministry where he has conflict with the Scribes and the Pharisees. There is no specific time detail or sequence necessarily implied. They are balanced by the presentation of five controversies in Jerusalem later in the Gospel (Mark 11:12:37). Following the remarkable impact of Jesus' early public ministry in Galilee, in Mark 2:1-12 the scribes appear for the first time in the Gospel. They were men schooled in the written Law of God and its oral interpretation. They were admitted to a closed order of legal specialists only after they were deemed fully qualified and had been set apart through the laying on of hands. As guardians of the teaching office they challenged Jesus concerning his message and His refusal to submit to the oral law (halakha) which they regarded as binding in its authority.*

*The issues in this encounter are around the accepted truth that only God can forgive sins and Jesus here plainly declares and then actually evidences that "the Son of Man (referring to Himself) has authority on earth to forgive sins." (v5,10). This of course indirectly implies that Jesus is the divine Son of God which was controversial to the authorities.*

Q1.What does Mark mean in 2:1-2 when he says that Jesus was at home. What town, what home?

How packed was the house where Jesus was?

What was Jesus doing?

What can we presume was his message?

Q2.What extraordinary incident does Mark mentioned in v3-4. *(Note many home had external stairs to a flat roof which was often used as a place of rest and quiet. The roof construction consisted of beams laid from wall to wall a metre apart with brushwood packed tight with clay and then marled over. Often a flourishing crop of grass grew on the roof. Digging out and repairing would have been easy enough but still extraordinary)*

What did it display to Jesus (v5a)

Q3. *This incident is against the Old Testament background where sin and disease, forgiveness and healing are frequently interrelated concepts. Healing is conditioned by the forgiveness of God and is often the demonstration of that forgiveness (see 2 Chronicles 7:14 ; Psalm 103:3; Psalm 147:3; Isaiah 38:16-22: Isaiah 57:16-21). Sickness, disease and death are consequences of the sinful condition of all men and so it is not necessary to think of a corresponding sin for each personal instance of sickness. There is no suggestion in the narrative that the paralytic's physical suffering was related to a specific sin. Every healing is a driving back of withering, decay and death and an invasion of the province of sin.*

What does Jesus say to the paralysed man? Why v5

If the story had ended at v5 would the man and his 4 companions have been happy? Would they have been offended? Why?

What is the connection of sin with sickness?

Does Jesus name any specific sin the man had done?

Was the man disabled because of his personal sins? (See John 9:1-7)

Was Jesus going out on a limb here with His words? How?

Q4.Who challenged Jesus' Words Why? V6-7

What were the implications for them?

What did they accuse Him of?

What would he eventually be crucified for? (Mark 14:61-65)

Q5.Had they actually spoken their deep concerns or did Jesus just know in his heart or had anticipated them? (v6-8)

Was Jesus fully aware of the deep implications of what he had just declared?

Q6.How did Jesus distinguish Himself from a charlatan who could say that they forgave sins? (8b-12a)

Without doing this would it have been a stalemate (ie His word against theirs)?

How did that prove that the man's sins were forgiven? (Hint where does sickness, suffering and death come from and so how might they be reversed)