

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 2:1–12

Mark 2:1–12

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!”

Why does Jesus forgive and heal?

- “**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’” (vv. 5–11).

- Jesus said the kingdom of God is here.
 - Healing and forgiveness are related.
 - “22 For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us. 23 Your cords hang loose; they cannot hold the mast firm in its place or keep the sail spread out. Then prey and spoil in abundance will be divided; even the lame will take the prey. 24 And no inhabitant will say, “I am sick”; the people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity” (Isaiah 33:22–24).
 - “The miracles, particularly the healings, point to the new-creation reality of the kingdom of God. They point forward to the time when the kingdom will be fully present, a time when creation will be renewed and there will be no sickness and death” (Peter Orr, *The Beginning of the Gospel*, 82).
- Jesus forgives and heals because he is ushering in God’s hoped-for kingdom.

Why can Jesus forgive and heal?

- “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’” (vv. 5–11).
- Jesus called himself the Son of Man
 - “13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13–14).
 - Why does Jesus, the Son of Man, have authority?
 - “The ἐξουσία which Jesus here claims is not merely that of declaring sins forgiven, but of forgiving” (R. T. France, *The Gospel of Mark*, 129).
- Jesus can forgive and heal because he is the Christ, the Son of God.

How should we respond to Jesus' forgiveness and healing?

- “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.’ . . . 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!’” (vv. 3–5, 12).
- Jesus identifies the men’s response.
 - “In each case faith is seen in the actions taken to receive Jesus’ help rather than on any specific Christological content” (Robert Guelich, *Mark 1–8:26*, 85).
- Jesus inspires us to believe in and trust him.

As the Son of Man, Jesus heals and forgives, doing what only God himself can do.