

Mark 2:1-12 (ESV)

2 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!”

1. How has forgiving someone or being forgiven changed you?
2. What can we learn from the determination of the four friends in bringing the paralyzed man to Jesus?
3. Why do you think Jesus addressed the man’s sins before healing him physically?

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4. How does Jesus' response challenge our understanding of our deepest needs (spiritual vs physical)?

5. How did Jesus show that He had authority to forgive sins?

6. What was this healing meant to show to those that witnessed it? Why was it important that Jesus show he had the power to do the work only God could do?

7. Who are the friends in your life pointing you to Jesus? Are you acting as that type of friend for others? For your ONE?