

## **Exegetical Notes, Mark 2:1-12**

### **“Words”**

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Cornerstone Fellowship  
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320  
610-384-1375  
charleshjensen@aol.com

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

#### **Verse 1-2**

*A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.*

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He grew up in Nazareth. Capernaum was his base of operation after he began his ministry. So here it is referred to as his “home.”
- On his return, a large crowd gathered. The crowd was so big that there was no way to get close to Jesus. He was surrounded by people.
- Jesus preached to them. He opened the word of God to the crowd.

#### **Verse 3-5**

*Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. 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. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”*

- Some men brought their friend who could not walk to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to heal him but they could not get close enough to Jesus to make their request. So they climbed up on the flat roof of the house. The roof would have been made of hard packed dirt laid over mats laid on the beams. The men made a hole in the roof and lowered their friend’s bed down into the house directly before Jesus.
- Jesus was impressed by their demonstration of faith and so healed the paralyzed man by saying to him, “Your sins are forgiven.”

### **Verse 6-7**

***Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”***

- Learned Jewish scholars firmly believed that only God could forgive sins. They argued that not even the Messiah would be given this power. Forgiveness of sin was the right of God and no one else. So when Jesus forgave the man’s sin, the scholars in the crowd understood that he was claiming to be God!
- In their minds, without saying anything out loud to anyone, they accused Jesus of blasphemy, claiming to be God or usurping the rights of God.
- The problem in their logic was that the man had been cured. If Jesus had cured him by forgiving his sins, then Jesus had the power to forgive sins and by their own logic must be God, for only God could do what Jesus had done!

### **Verse 8a**

***Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts,...***

- Nothing, no thought, is hidden from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of God and therefore of Jesus. The Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus what the scholars in the crowd were thinking.

### **Verse 8b-11**

***...and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralytic, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”***

- Jesus challenged the thinking of the teachers of the law. He showed them that he knew what they were thinking and then used the words they wanted him to use. Either way, regardless of the formula used, the paralytic was healed. The conclusion had to be that Jesus was God for he had the power to forgive sin.

## **Verse 12**

***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!”***

- Everyone was amazed. Jesus had shown himself to be God. Not even the teachers of the law could argue with this demonstration of power.

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