

# The Gospel of Mark

## Lesson 4: Mark 2:1-12

Mark 2:1-3:6 is generally considered to be an intentional grouping of accounts that demonstrate the growing animosity of the Jewish religious leaders. These events very likely did not occur in chronological order, but were brought together by Mark because of their related theme.

### A paralytic's sins are forgiven (vv. 1-5)

Matt. 9:2  
Luke 5:17-20

- The Pharisees and scribes are present as Jesus is teaching
- This is likely Peter's house in Capernaum, and it's standing room only
- The paralytic's friends take him to the roof and lower him into the house

*What role does the friends' faith play in Jesus forgiving him?*

*Why would Jesus forgive the paralytic instead of healing him?*

*What role does sin have in sickness, aging, and death?*

### Jesus responds to the scribes (vv. 6-12)

Matt. 9:3-8  
Luke 5:21-26

- The scribes rightly understand that only God can forgive sins
  - This leads them to consider Jesus to be a blasphemer
  - Jewish theology did not teach that the Messiah would forgive sins
  - Taking nothing away from Jesus, but it probably isn't difficult to know that the scribes are upset
- Jesus challenges them by asking them which is easier, to forgive or heal
  - Commentators have been divided on this

*What is the point of Jesus' question to the scribes?*

- Jesus' use of the title "Son of Man" has bothered scholars, coming so early in His ministry and directed at unbelieving Jewish religious men
  - All three synoptic gospels record Jesus' words here essentially the same
- The man is healed and the people in the room are amazed

*What is Jesus telling the people about the Son of the Man and the Messiah?*