

“My Son, Your Sins Are Forgiven”

<p>MAR 2:1 And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. 4 And being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. 5 And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." 6 But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, :7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet and walk'? 10 "But in order 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, take up your pallet and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately took up the pallet and went out in the sight of all; so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."</p>	<p>MAT 9:1 And getting into a boat, He crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 And behold, they were bringing to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed; and Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Take courage, My son, your sins are forgiven." 3 And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? 5 "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk'? 6 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-- then He said to the paralytic-- "Rise, take up your bed, and go home." 7 And he rose, and went home. 8 But when the multitudes saw this, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.</p>	<p>LUK 5:17 And it came about one day that He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. 18 And behold, some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in, and to set him down in front of Him. 19 And not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, right in the center, in front of Jesus. 20 And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." Lit. "man, your" 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" 22 But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? 24 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"-- He said to the paralytic-- "I say to you, rise, and take up your stretcher and go home." 25 And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. 26 And they were all seized with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."</p>
--	---	--

Some Information Leading Up To Jesus’s Statement

1. Jesus was preaching in “Capernaum.” (Mk. 2:1).
 - a. He was retiring from the land of the Gadarenes by boat to Capernaum. (Matt. 8:18, 23, 28; Lk. 4:23, 31).

b. This is “His own city.” (Mk. 2:1; Matt. 9:1).

1) Jesus spent a lot of time there. (Matt. 4:13; 8:5; 11:23; 17:24; Mk 1:21; 2:1; 9:33; Lk. 4:23, 31; 7:1; 10:15; Jn. 2:2; 4:46; 6:17, 24, 59).

2) It was a city of Galilee on the northwestern shore of the sea of Galilee. (Matt. 4:13; Jn. 6:24).

3) It had its own Synagogue. (Jn. 6:59; Mk. 1:21; Lk. 4:31-38).

4) Capernaum was His headquarters for His work in Galilee.

5) Remember Jesus was not that well received in Nazareth where He grew up. (Lk. 4:16-30; Mk. 6:4).

MAR 6:4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town and among his own relatives and in his own household." See Lk. 6:28-30.

c. Luke adds there were “Pharisees and teachers of the law” there. (Lk. 5:17).

1) The Pharisees believed in the resurrection and the existence of angels, demons. (Lk. 20:27; Acts 23:6-9).

2) They believed in the validity of both the oral and written law.

3) They were a very self-righteous, hypocritical group.

4) The scribes, the teachers of the law, were there. Most scribes were Pharisees and leaders in this sect.

2. The house was completely filled. (Mk. 2:2; Lk. 5:19).

3. Men were anxious to hear Jesus (Mk. 2:2; Lk. 5:19), but sadly many in His time and now are not.

4. Four men of faith brought a paralytic to Jesus. (Mk. 2:3, 5; Matt. 9:2; Lk. 5:18, 20)

a. This man carried was paralyzed. (Mk. 2:3; Matt. 9:2; Lk. 5:18).

b. The writers use the words “their faith.” (Mk. 2:5; Matt. 9:2; Lk. 5:20).

1) “their faith” - A reference to the faith of the four men and of the man himself. There is no reason for excluding his faith. He came to Jesus with confidence he would be healed.

2) There is no evidence he came involuntarily.

3) How excited he must have been to see Jesus!

c. They had great faith in Jesus and were confident Jesus would heal their friend if they could reach Jesus.

d. The paralyzed man most likely had that great confidence of being healed.

5. They were unable to make their way through the crowd. (Mk. 2:4; Lk. 5:19).

6. They entered the house through the roof.

- a. They perhaps climbed up a stairway on the outside or climbed up on a ladder to the flat tile roof and dug out or broke up the tiles.
- b. It is not clear if Jesus was upstairs or downstairs and really makes no difference now.
- c. There were thus tiles of laths and plaster and even slabs of stone stuck in for strength that had to be dug out.
RWP
- d. It is not clear where Jesus was either downstairs or upstairs, or in the quadrangle if the house had one. "A composition of mortar, tar, ashes and sand is spread upon the roofs, and rolled hard, and grass grows in the crevices. On the houses of the poor in the country the grass grows more freely, and goats may be seen on the roofs cropping it" (Vincent). **RWP**

Jesus' Statements

- "My son, your sins are forgiven." (Mk. 2:5). Lit "Child, your." Gr. is "teknon" [**teh**k nahn] - "child"
 - "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk'? (Matt. 9:5).
 - "And seeing their faith, He said, "Friend [man], your sins are forgiven you." (Lk. 5:20). The Greek is "anthropos" [**ahn** throh pahs] meaning "man."
1. Jesus spoke these words because **He had the authority to do so.** (Jn. 17:2; Matt. 28:18).
 2. He spoke these words because **this man needed more than healing.**
 - a. He needed forgiveness. He could go to heaven being paralyzed, but he could not go to heaven without forgiveness of his sins.
 - b. It should also be kept in mind that being handicapped does not teach or imply or mean that one is not accountable to God.
 - c. This is a false conclusion many have assumed, but it is far from the truth.
 3. He spoke these words because **the man manifested faith in coming to Him.**
 4. He spoke the words because **the man was penitent.** He does not forgive those who are not penitent. (Lk. 13:3,5).
 5. He spoke these words that **He might give evidence that He had this authority as the Son of God.**

Jesus Was Charged With Blasphemy In Their Minds (Mk. 2:7; Matt. 9:3; Lk. 5:21).

1. This is the unspoken charge in their hearts that Jesus read like an open book.
 - a. The word "blasphemeo" [blahs freh **meh** oh] means "injurious speech or slander."
 - b. It was, they held, blasphemy for Jesus to assume this divine prerogative.
2. Jesus had done something only permitted by "God." (Mk. 2:7; Lk. 5:21).

MAR 2:7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

LUK 5:21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?"

- a. "Alone," indicates Jesus' actions put Him on par with God.
 - b. The Pharisees and scribes believed this made Jesus a blasphemer since they denied His Deity and sought in every way to reject and discredit Him.
3. They thought Jesus was a man, perhaps an exceptional man, but still just a man.

Jesus Response To Their Evil Thinking

1. Jesus made this statement because He knew the evil that was going through their minds. (Mk. 2:8; Matt. 9:4; Lk. 5:22).
 - a. Jesus knew their thoughts manifesting a divine omniscience.
 - b. As Deity He knows our thoughts.
2. Jesus forgave this man of sins. (Mk. 2:5; Matt. 9:5, 6; Lk. 5:22, 23). See Lk. 7:50; 8:48; 17:19; 18:42.
 - a. His suffering may have been because of sin, but the text does not say that and we should not assume it as fact.
 - 1) Jesus had indicated all suffering was not the result of sin. (Lk. 13:1-5; Jn. 9:1-3).

LUK 13:1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

LUK 13:2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate?"

LUK 13:3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

LUK 13:4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"

LUK 13:5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

JOH 9:1 And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

JOH 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?"

JOH 9:3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.

- 2) It is jumping to conclusions to imply his suffering was as the result of sin, for men suffer for a variety of reasons.
 - b. Jesus forgave his sins to show that He had that authority. (Mk. 2:10; Matt. 9:6; Lk. 5:24).
3. The forgiveness of sins is something that is invisible.
- a. Some might wonder if his sins had really been forgiven.
 - b. Anyone could make the claim to forgive sins, but how could one know it was true?

c. Jesus proved His authority to forgive sins by healing the man. (Mk. 2:10-12; Matt. 9:6, 7; Lk. 5:24).

Jesus Was More Than A Man

1. Yes, He was called the “son of man” (Mk. 2:10; Matt. 9:6), but He was much more than a man! (Matt. 1:23).

a. Some believe the words “son of man” are merely a circumlocution or periphrasis for “I”.

b. The words are mostly likely a title for Christ, and was Jesus’ favorite way of referring to Himself.

Matthean References: Matt. 8:20; 9:6; 10:23; 11:19; 12:23, 32; 12:40; 13:37, 41; 16:13, 27, 28; 17:9, 12, 22; 18:11; 19:28; 20:18, 28; 24:37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:2, 24, 45, 64.

c. This title may have come from Daniel 7:13, 14.

DAN 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One [Christ] like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days [God] And was presented before Him. 14 "And to Him [Christ] was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed. ASV

d. The expression denotes the Special Man sent to be the Redeemer of mankind.

e. It denotes one who is interested in man. The words “son of” denote one who possess like qualities or one who is interested in something.

2. Jesus was Deity. (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 1:1-3, 18; 14:9; 10:9; John 20:28; Col. 1:15; 2:9; Heb. 1:8).

The Healing

1. It was done in response to the faith of the four men and the paralytic.

2. The healing was convincing to those who observed it. (Mk. 2:12; Matt. 9:8; Lk 5:26).

a. It convinced them Jesus had authority to forgive sins.

b. His previous words would have been empty if the man had not walked.

c. His claim to forgive sins was immediately verified by the healing.

3. It was convincing to the man healed. (Lk. 5:25).

LUK 5:25 And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.

4. It was instantaneous and complete. (Mk. 2:12; Matt. 9:7, 8; Lk. 5:25).

MAR 2:12 And he rose and **immediately** took up the pallet and went out in the sight of all; so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

MAT 9:7 And he rose, and went home.

MAT 9:8 But when the multitudes saw this, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

LUK 5:25 And at once he rose up before them, and took up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.

This Is Not The Only Time Jesus Forgave Sins

1. Jesus forgave the thief on the cross. (Lk. 23:43-46).
2. Jesus forgave the sinful woman. (Lk. 7:36-50, 47).
3. He forgave the woman caught in adultery. (Jn. 8:1-11).

This Is Not The Only Time Jesus Was Accused Of Sins

1. Jesus was often accused of sin.
 - a. He was accused of blasphemy. (Matt. 26:65).
 - b. He was accused of being in league with Satan. (Matt. 12:24).
 - c. He was accused of violating the Sabbath. (Matt. 12:1-8).
 - d. He was accused of being a drunkard and a friend of sinners. (Matt. 11:19; Lk. 7:34).
2. Jesus claimed sinlessness. (Jn. 8:46).
3. The biblical writers teach He bore our sins (Isa. 53:4-6), but He had no sin. (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22).

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)

