



## Mark 1 & 2 - January 2024

### Introduction



### Mark 2: 1-12 Who can forgive sins but God alone?

(sermons: Jan 28)

#### **Mark 2: 1-4 A Paralysed Man is Brought to Jesus**

v.1 *he had come home – Capernaum had become Jesus’ base for his ministry; it was a town/village on the north side of Lake Galilee, where Simon, Andrew and their mother lived.*

v.4 *they made an opening in the roof – they probably went up an external staircase to a flat roof*

v.5 *When Jesus saw their faith – the faith of the four friends, or of the paralysed man as well?*

1. What can we learn from the friends of the paralysed man?

Suggest different ways in which we can bring people to Jesus today.

#### **Mark 2: 5-12 Jesus Forgives and Heals**

v.6 *teachers of the law – those who explained the ‘Law of Moses’, the first 5 books of the Old Testament and applied it to questions of everyday life. Some teachers of the law were also Pharisees.*

v.7 *blaspheming – dishonouring God: by using his Name wrongly, or saying false or misleading things about him, or claiming falsely to be God or to act in his name. The penalty in Jesus’ time was death by stoning, although the Romans didn’t allow the Jews to carry out a death sentence themselves.*

v.10 *the Son of Man – a name, or title, that Jesus often used for himself; it could be as vague as the impersonal ‘one’, or mean ‘someone like me’, but it is more likely to be an allusion to the Messiah-figure in Daniel 7:13. Used here it left open the question of Jesus’ full identity.*

2. Of the words that the teachers of the law said, what was right? And what was wrong?

What wrong conclusion did they draw from what they saw? What conclusion should they have drawn?

Can what we know, or think that we know, sometimes be a barrier to us learning more about Jesus?

3. What is the answer to Jesus’s question: “Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?” (verse 9)

How did Jesus’s action answer the question? What did it show about who Jesus was?

What did it show about the importance of having our sins forgiven?

How can forgiving – and being given – have a wider impact on our lives?

4. What convinced *us* that Jesus was the Son of God? What might convince people today?

When is it the right time to talk about sin and our need for forgiveness?

5. Do we think we have to prioritize either evangelism (spreading the Christian message) or giving practical help and being involved in social issues?

Or does what we do give us opportunities to speak, and does what we say explain what motivates us and gives us the strength to serve? How do we point to God rather than to ourselves?

Do we all need to do both? If so, is it the same balance of word and action for all of us?