### Mark

## Chapter 2

1Well after several days, [Jesus] returned to CapharNaum, and when word got out that he was back home, 2so many people came to him that there wasn’t any room around the door. Then he started preaching the word to them.  
  
3Thereafter, four people came to him carrying a man who was paralyzed. 4But because the crowd was so large, they couldn’t get him to [Jesus]. So, they dug an opening through the part of the roof where [Jesus] was standing, and lowered down the cot on which the [man] was lying.  
  
5Then when Jesus saw how much faith they’d shown, he said to the paralyzed man:  
  
 ‘Child, your sins are forgiven.’  
  
6Well, when they heard him say that, some of the Scribes that were sitting there started reasoning in their hearts:  
  
 7‘Why is he talking in such a way, for this is blasphemy!  
  
 ‘Who is able to forgive sins other than the one God?’  
  
8And through the spirit, Jesus immediately realized that they were reasoning in this way inside themselves, so he asked them:  
  
 ‘Why are [such bad] thoughts entering your hearts? 9Which is easier, to tell the paralyzed man, Your sins are forgiven, or, Get up, pick up your cot, and walk?  
  
 10‘Well, so that you men will know that the Son of Man has been authorized to forgive sins on the earth...’  
  
11[He said to the man]:  
  
 ‘Get up, pick up your cot, and go home.’  
  
12And immediately, the man got right up, picked up his cot, and walked out in front of everyone!  
  
Well, all those who were there were beside themselves and they started glorifying God, saying:  
  
 ‘We’ve never seen anything like this!’  
  
  
  
13Then later, he went outside to the seashore, where huge crowds came to him and he taught them.  
  
14It was as he was passing the tax office that he noticed Levi (son of AlphaEus), sitting there.  
  
So [he] said to him:  
  
 ‘Follow me.’  
  
And [Levi] got right up and went with him.  
  
15Then later, as Jesus was reclining at the table in [Levi’s] home, several tax collectors and sinners started coming and reclining with him and his disciples (many of whom became Jesus’ followers). 16But when the Scribes and Pharisees saw that he was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples:  
  
 ‘Why is he eating with the tax collectors and sinners?’  
  
17And because Jesus overheard this, he said:  
  
 ‘Those who are well don’t need a doctor, only the ill do.  
  
 ‘So I didn’t come to call the righteous, just the sinners.’  
  
18Well, back then, John’s disciples (who practiced fasting, as did the Pharisees) came to [Jesus] and asked:  
  
 ‘Why is it that while the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, your disciples don’t fast?’  
  
19And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘The sons of the bride chamber can’t fast while the bridegroom is among them, because as long as he’s with them, there’s [no reason to] fast.  
  
 20‘But the days are coming when the groom will be taken away… And then they’ll fast.  
  
 21‘Understand that no one sews patches of new cloth onto old clothes, for if they do, the new [cloth] will shrink and stretch the old cloth, which will make the tear worse.  
  
 22‘Also, if you put young wine into old wineskins, the [new] wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins will be lost. So it’s best for people to use new wineskins for new wine.’  
  
  
  
23Then on another day, as [Jesus] was walking through the grain fields on the Sabbath, his disciples started plucking heads of grain [to eat] as they were traveling along.  
  
24And the Pharisees asked him:  
  
 ‘{Look!} Why are they doing something that’s illegal on the Sabbath?’  
  
25But he replied:  
  
 ‘Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was in need, and he and the men who were with him got hungry (in the account about AbiAthar, the High Priest)… 26How he entered the House of God and ate the Presentation Bread, which isn’t legal for anyone to eat other than the Priests, and how he also gave some of it to the men who were with him?’  
  
27Then [Jesus] said this:  
  
 ‘The Sabbath came into existence for the sake of mankind, not mankind for the Sabbath.  
  
 28‘But you should also know that the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath.’