

## Study Questions: Mark 2:1-17

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1. In Mark 2:1-4 Mark describes an incident when Jesus teaching was interrupted by a couple of guys dropping through the roof. The story suggests that when you come to Jesus he gives you what you need before he gives you what you want. Does Jesus' response surprise you? Why/why not?
2. Consider Mark 2:5-8 and Isaiah 43:25. "Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Why do you think what Jesus said was a problem for the Pharisees? What are the implications of what Jesus is saying? (i.e. who is this fellow?)
3. Jesus' comment in vs10 is a clue to why this event unfolded the way it did and makes the point that Jesus has the "authority on earth to forgive sins." Previously, forgiveness of sin was effected through repentance and atonement available through the sacrificial system, but Jesus redirected this reality to himself.
  - The Word of Jesus is authoritative and enough to declare you forgiven. Do you struggle with accepting Jesus' forgiveness? Why/Why not?
4. Discuss these two scenarios and why they might be flawed ways of understanding forgiveness based on the accompanying Scripture:
  - 'Perfectionism' – I don't deserve forgiveness because I continue to sin/make mistakes so I will make sure I follow the rules so I can please God. Romans 8:33-34
  - 'Permission' – My sins are covered by God's grace and I can live in this world like everybody else without feeling judged for my behaviour. I can always 'ask for forgiveness later'. Romans 6:1&15
5. 1 John 1:9 states; "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." How might your life change when you accept Jesus' authority when he says 'you are forgiven'?

Bonus time: Read Mark 2:13-17. What does this reveal about what it means for a disciple of Jesus to live forgiven and free?