

Which is easier say... 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?...



5. The _____ Reaction

And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" Mark 2:12 (ESV)

When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men. Matthew 9:8 (ESV)

Application

- **Jesus is more than a man. He is _____ because he does what only God can do.**
- **If Jesus' word has the authority heal sickness at his word, he also has the authority _____ sin at his word, because sin is the source of sickness.**

Life Group Questions

1. How does someone have their sin forgiven by Jesus? (See 1 John 1:8-9; Acts 2:38; 13:38) Have you been forgiven by Jesus? How does forgiveness change you?
2. What should we do as Christians when we sin and know we need more forgiveness? (See 1 John 2:1-2. Look up the word *propitiation* in a dictionary)
3. How does complete forgiveness, when we come from a particularly sinful background before Jesus or when we have a serious lapse back into sin after coming to Jesus, change the way we love Jesus? (See Luke 7:37-50, note v.47)
4. Why must Christians always forgive others? (See Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:23-35) Is there someone you haven't forgiven? Does forgiveness always mean restoring complete trust?
5. Is there a time when we should say, "enough is enough" and stop forgiving someone that sins against us repeatedly and each time asks for forgiveness? (See Luke 17:3-4) Why must we continually offer forgiveness when someone asks for it?

Mark 2:1-12 – Jesus Forgives Sin

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Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,... Acts 13:38 (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,... Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

...as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:12 (ESV)

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. Isaiah 38:17 (ESV)

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43:25 (ESV)

1. The Curious _____

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. Mark 2:1-2 (ESV)

When he returned to Capernaum...

And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." Mark 1:38 (ESV)

...after many days...

But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter. Mark 1:45 (ESV)

It was reported that he was at home...

So many gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door...

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Luke 5:17 (ESV)

Pharisees — They are the strictest religious sect in Judaism

Teachers of the Law — They are the seminary professors of the day

2. The Believing _____

And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. Mark 2:3–4 (ESV)

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd,... Luke 5:18–19 (ESV)

but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles.... Luke 5:19 (ESV)

3. The Forgiving _____

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Mark 2:5 (ESV)

4. The Hostile _____

Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But 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, pick up your bed, and go home.” Mark 2:6–11 (ESV)

He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?...

Immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?”...

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (ESV)

...for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.... 1 Chronicles 28:9 (ESV)

“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” Jeremiah 17:10 (ESV)

...So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind. Ezekiel 11:5 (ESV)