

## To Forgive is Divine Mark 2:1-12

Five episodes in 2:1-3:6 show Jesus' authority over sin, sickness and the Sabbath, which results in an intensifying conflict with the religious leaders and a climactic decision to eliminate Jesus in 3:6.

### **Miracle coming—Jesus forgives lame man, 2:1-3**

- Lk. 5:17 notes a bunch of scholarly reps were here from all over.
- Why does Jesus offer forgiveness? Jn. 5:14, I Cor. 11:30, I Jn. 5:16  
We forgive too, 11:25, Matt. 6:12,14,15, Eph. 4:32, but only if . . .
- What really must be this man's greatest need? And perhaps ours?

### **Theological conflict—Scribes upset Jesus forgives, 2:4-10**

- Question the scribes are thinking—"Why is Jesus blaspheming?"
- Counter-question of Jesus—Exposes their thoughts and offers a test.
- Jesus' *authority* (v.10) to forgive is at stake here, recall 1:22,27.

### **Miracle completed—Jesus heals lame man, 2:11-12**

- *Son of Man* in Mark is always a self-designation (first of 14x); it's a bit ambiguous (in OT it = a prophet or royal end-times individual), which fits w/Jesus' desire to cloak His public identity to a degree.
- *Immediate* healing results again in an *amazed crowd* (1:27).  
This proves Jesus' point, but the scribes refuse to be convinced!



\*Consider 11:30-33, 2:15, 16 and Lk. 18:18:10-13 as far as the scribes attitudes on forgiveness.

\*What do we see here about Jesus' readiness to forgive us? I Jn. 1:9

\*What does this say about how willing and ready we should be when it comes to forgiving others?