

Chapter 2

¹Sometime later Jesus again entered Capernaum, and it was heard that he was at home.

²So many people gathered that there was no more room, not even outside the door, and he was speaking the word to them.

³A paralytic was brought to him, carried by four men, ⁴but being unable to reach Jesus because of the crowd, they dug through the roof above him, and lowered the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now some of the legal experts were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does he say this? Is he blaspheming? Who can forgive sins except one - God?"

⁸Jesus instantly knew in his spirit that they were thinking like this and said to them, "Why are you questioning these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier? To say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven?' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your bed, and walk?' ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on the earth..."

Jesus said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I say to you, get up, pick up your bed, and go home."

¹² The man got up, and quickly picking up the bed, departed in the sight of everyone. All were amazed by this and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

¹³Once again Jesus went out along the seashore, and the whole crowd came to him and he was teaching them. ¹⁴As he moved along, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax collector's booth. He said to him, "Follow me." Levi stood up and followed him.

¹⁵Later, Jesus was having a meal in his house, and many tax collectors and so-called "sinners" were feasting with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the Pharisaic teachers of the law saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "He eats with tax collectors and sinners!"

¹⁷Hearing this, Jesus said to them, "Those who are healthy don't need a doctor, rather those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

¹⁸Now the disciples of John and the pharisees practiced fasting. Some people came and said to Jesus, "Why do your disciples not fast like the disciples of John and the pharisees?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "The friends of the groom can't fast while he is with them, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰But a time is coming when the groom is taken away from them. In that day they will fast. ²¹No one sews a patch of new unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new patch will pull away from the old garment making the tear worse. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins.

Otherwise, the wine will burst the wineskins and both the wine and the wineskins are ruined. New wine is put into fresh wineskins.”

²³One Sabbath, as Jesus was passing by the grain fields, his disciples began to make their way through the fields plucking the heads of grain. ²⁴The pharisees were saying to him, “Hey, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

²⁵Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need, and he and the men with him were hungry? ²⁶How he entered the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest and ate the Bread of Presence, which is unlawful to eat except for the priests, and he also gave it to those with him?”

²⁷Finally he said to them, “The Sabbath was created for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So then, the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”