**GFM STAFF CONFERENCE 2023**

**Mark 2 - NLT**

**2**When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. **2**Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God’s word to them, **3**four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. **4**They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. **5**Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”

**6**But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, **7**“What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!”

**8**Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? **9**Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? **10**So I will prove to you that the Son of Man[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+2&version=NLT#fen-NLT-24244a)] has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, **11**“Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” **12**And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!”