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Mark 2:1-12

—— Popularity and Controversy

As news spreads of Jesus' authoritative preaching and his ability to heal diseases and cast out demons, many people flock to him. Religious leaders begin to scrutinize his words and actions with increasing hostility. Look carefully at how Jesus handles their questions.

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. Imagine you are making a video of this incident. Describe the setting and the characters.

As the scene opens, what is going on?

Note: Jesus had taught in the synagogue and healed many people during a previous visit in Capernaum (1:21-33).

2. What indicates Jesus' popularity at this time?
3. Why and how is Jesus' preaching interrupted?

How does he react to this interruption?

4. What do you think the paralyzed man's friends have in mind?

How does that compare with what Jesus says in verse 5?

5. How do the scribes or teachers of the law react to this statement and why? Look up *blasphemy* in a dictionary.

Note: Under Jewish law, blasphemy was punishable by death.

6. In your own words what are the scribes thinking?

What is the point of the question Jesus asks in reply (verse 9)?

7. What do you think Jesus expects to prove to the scribes by healing the paralyzed man?

8. How does the healed man express his faith?

How do the people react to his healing?

SUMMARY

1. What have you discovered about Jesus from this account?
2. What impressed you the most, or what did you see for the first time?