

A large crowd of people is seen from behind, looking towards a bright horizon. The text "the one" is overlaid in white, with "the" in a smaller font and "one" in a larger font.

the one

Read: Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the Law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So He said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Application:

1. In chapters one and two, what does Mark tell us about why Jesus has become popular so quickly?
2. Describe the teachers of the Law in these verses and why they opposed Jesus?
3. What is most striking about the four friends helping their paralyzed friend?

4. What is especially risky about what the four friends did?

Takeaway:

1. How could your Home Team function more like a group of friends helping the helpless?

2. Why do you think the Capernaum church leaders' hearts were so different from Jesus' heart? How should this be a good caution for all of us?

3. What do these verses tell us about Jesus' true identity and how that impacts our lives?

Pray:

1. Pray for God to give you the courage to bring one of your friends to church. *(Reference your list on page 9)*

2. Pray for the launch of the Valley Center Campus and for the many volunteers.