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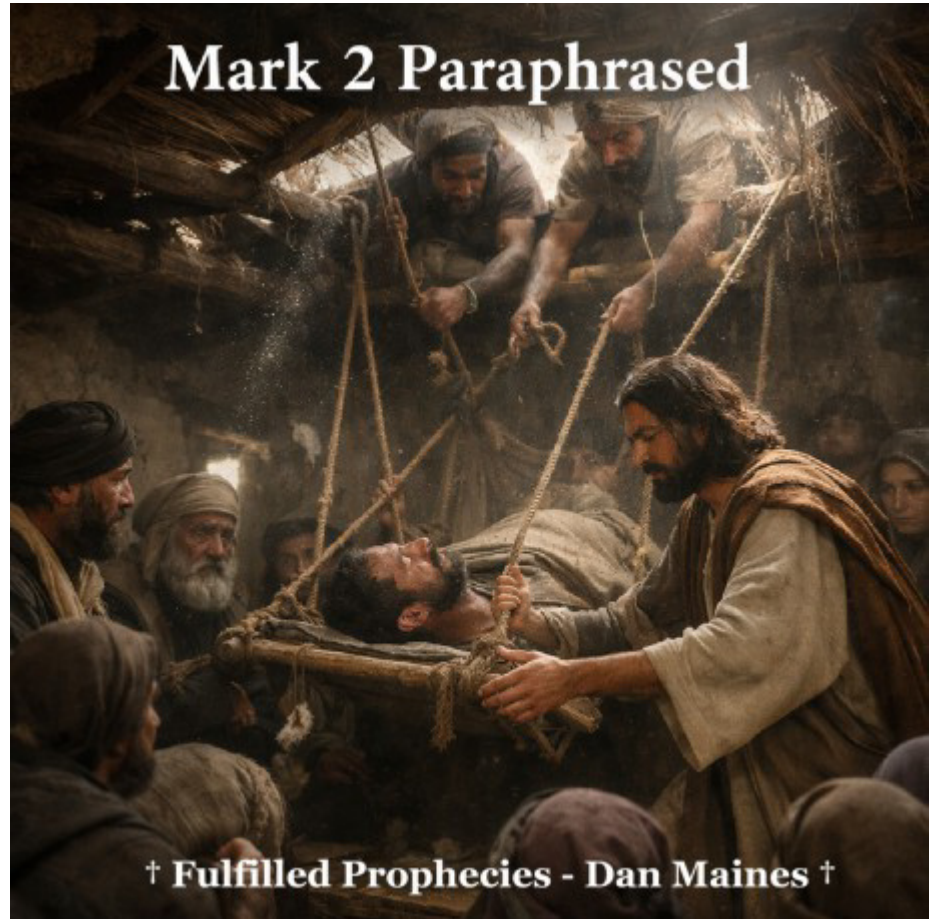
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Mark 2 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines† Mark chapter 2 continues the record of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, showing His authority to forgive sins, His call of sinners, and His authority over religious traditions.

† The events reveal that Jesus wasn't merely a teacher or healer, He was demonstrating divine authority that the religious leaders refused to accept (Daniel 7:13-14).

† Early Christians like Irenaeus and Eusebius wrote that these accounts proved Christ's authority on earth and exposed the blindness of the religious leadership of that generation.

Mark 2:1

A few days later Jesus returned to Capernaum, and news spread quickly that He was back at the house.

† Capernaum had become the center of Jesus' ministry in Galilee (Matthew 4:13).

† Crowds gathered because people had already heard about His miracles and teaching.

† Eusebius noted in Ecclesiastical History that Capernaum became widely known as a place where Jesus often stayed and taught.

Mark 2:2

So many people gathered that there was no room left, not even near the doorway, and He began teaching them the word.

† The focus of Jesus' ministry was always teaching the word, miracles confirmed the message (Luke 5:17).

† The crowd blocking the door shows the intense interest people had in hearing Him.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote in Stromata that the crowds were drawn not only by miracles but by the authority of His teaching.

Mark 2:3

Then four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.

† The man's condition shows complete dependence on others for help.

† This scene highlights the faith and determination of the men bringing him.

† Early Christian writers often used this moment as an example of intercessory faith.

Mark 2:4

Since they couldn't get through the crowd to reach Jesus, they climbed onto the roof, opened it up above Him, and lowered the mat with the paralyzed man down in front of Him.

† Houses in that region often had flat roofs with external stairways, making this possible.

† Their actions show strong faith that Jesus could heal him

(Luke 5:19).

† Irenaeus wrote in *Against Heresies* that the determination of these men showed a faith stronger than the obstacles placed before them.

Mark 2:5

When Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralyzed man, Son, your sins are forgiven.

† Jesus first addressed the man's deeper need, forgiveness of sin.

† This statement immediately revealed His authority, since only God forgives sins (Isaiah 43:25).

† The statement would provoke the reaction of the scribes present.

Mark 2:6

Some of the scribes were sitting there silently questioning what He had just said.

† The scribes were trained experts in the law of Moses.

† They understood the implication of Jesus' words immediately.

† Their internal questioning shows their resistance to recognizing His authority.

Mark 2:7

They thought to themselves, Why does this man speak like this? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins except God alone?

† Their reasoning was correct in principle but wrong in conclusion.

† They failed to realize that God was standing before them in the person of Christ.

† This moment exposes the conflict between Jesus and the religious authorities.

Mark 2:8

Jesus immediately knew in His spirit what they were thinking, so He asked them, Why are you questioning these things in your

hearts?

† Jesus' awareness of their thoughts demonstrates divine knowledge (John 2:24-25).

† This ability itself was evidence of His authority.

† Early writers pointed to this verse as proof of Christ's divine insight.

Mark 2:9

Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, Your sins are forgiven, or to say, Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?

† Jesus challenged them with a logical question.

† Both statements require divine authority to make true.

† The miracle would visibly confirm His authority to forgive sins.

Mark 2:10

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralyzed man,

† The title Son of Man connects directly to Daniel 7:13-14.

† Jesus declared His authority openly in front of witnesses.

† This moment reveals that forgiveness was already being granted during His earthly ministry.

Mark 2:11

I say to you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home.

† The command shows Jesus exercising immediate authority.

† The miracle would serve as visible proof of His authority.

† The simplicity of the command highlights the power behind it.

Mark 2:12

The man stood up immediately, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of everyone, leaving them all amazed and praising God, saying they had never seen anything like it.

† The immediate healing confirmed Jesus' authority.

† The crowd recognized the extraordinary nature of the event.

† Miracles often served to reveal God's power through Christ.

Mark 2:13

Jesus went out again beside the sea, and the whole crowd came to Him, and He began teaching them.

† Teaching remained the central focus of His ministry.

† The sea refers to the Sea of Galilee.

† Large crowds continued to follow Him wherever He went.

Mark 2:14

As He passed by He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth and said to him, Follow Me, and Levi stood up and followed Him.

† Levi is also known as Matthew (Matthew 9:9).

† Tax collectors were despised by many Jews because they worked for Rome.

† Jesus calling a tax collector shows the inclusive nature of His ministry.

Mark 2:15

Later Jesus was eating at Levi's house with many tax collectors and sinners who were following Him.

† The gathering shows that many socially rejected people were drawn to Jesus.

† His presence among them angered the religious leaders.

† Early writers emphasized that Christ came to seek the lost.

Mark 2:16

When the scribes of the Pharisees saw Him eating with sinners and tax collectors they asked His disciples, Why does He eat with them?

† Table fellowship was considered a sign of acceptance.

† The religious leaders believed they should remain separate from such people.

† Their question reflects their rigid religious mindset.

Mark 2:17

When Jesus heard this He said to them, Those who are healthy don't need a doctor, but those who are sick do. I didn't come to

call the righteous, but sinners.

† Jesus used a simple illustration to explain His mission.

† The statement exposes the self-righteous attitude of the Pharisees.

† His mission was to bring repentance and restoration.

Mark 2:18

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting, and people asked Jesus, Why do John's disciples and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples don't fast?

† Fasting was a common religious practice among Jews.

† The question reflects the expectation that Jesus should follow the same traditions.

† This moment leads to a teaching about the new covenant reality.

Mark 2:19

Jesus answered, The wedding guests don't fast while the bridegroom is with them, do they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they can't fast.

† Jesus referred to Himself as the bridegroom.

† The image of a wedding represents joy and celebration.

† The presence of Christ meant it wasn't a time for mourning.

Mark 2:20

But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

† This statement points ahead to His coming death.

† The disciples would experience sorrow after His departure.

† The language foreshadows events leading to the cross.

Mark 2:21

No one patches an old garment with a piece of new cloth, otherwise the new patch pulls away from the old and the tear becomes worse.

† Jesus used a familiar everyday illustration.

† The new covenant couldn't simply be patched onto the old

system.

† This statement reveals the coming transition from the old covenant order.

Mark 2:22

And no one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins are ruined. New wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

† This illustration reinforces the same principle.

† The old covenant system couldn't contain the new covenant reality.

† The destruction of the old covenant system would later be completed in AD 70.

Mark 2:23

One Sabbath Jesus was walking through grain fields, and His disciples began picking heads of grain as they walked along.

† Picking grain to eat was allowed under the law for travelers (Deuteronomy 23:25).

† The issue wasn't the act itself but the Pharisees' strict interpretation of Sabbath rules.

† This moment leads to another confrontation with the Pharisees.

Mark 2:24

The Pharisees said to Him, Look, why are they doing what isn't lawful on the Sabbath?

† The Pharisees had developed many extra rules about the Sabbath.

† Their interpretation turned the Sabbath into a burden.

† Jesus challenged their misunderstanding of the law.

Mark 2:25

He said to them, Haven't you ever read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need?

† Jesus referenced an event from the life of David (1 Samuel 21:1-6).

† This example showed that human need could take precedence over ritual rules.

† The argument placed Jesus' authority alongside the example of David.

Mark 2:26

During the time of Abiathar the high priest David entered the house of God and ate the bread that was only lawful for priests, and he also gave some to his companions.

† The bread referred to the consecrated bread from the temple.

† David's actions demonstrated mercy over strict ritual law.

† Jesus used scripture to correct their misunderstanding.

Mark 2:27

Then He said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

† The Sabbath was intended as a blessing, not a burden.

† The Pharisees had reversed its purpose.

† This statement corrected their legalistic interpretation.

Mark 2:28

So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

† Jesus claimed authority over the Sabbath itself.

† This statement further affirmed His divine authority.

† The claim would have been shocking to the religious leaders.

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote in *Against Heresies* that Christ forgiving sins openly proved His divine authority among men.

† Eusebius recorded that the early church saw these miracles as proof that the Son of Man held authority on earth.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that Christ's actions revealed mercy over rigid religious traditions.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Jesus still has authority to forgive sins and restore lives.

† Faith that acts, like the men lowering the paralytic,

demonstrates trust in Christ's power.

† Religious traditions must never replace the mercy and truth that Christ taught.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins before healing him?

A Because spiritual restoration is the greater need, and Jesus demonstrated His authority to forgive sins on earth (Mark 2:10).

Q Why did the scribes accuse Jesus of blasphemy?

A They believed only God could forgive sins, and they didn't recognize Jesus as the Son of God (Isaiah 43:25).

Q Why did Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?

A He came to call sinners to repentance, not those who believed they were already righteous (Mark 2:17).

Q What did the illustration of new wine and wineskins mean?

A It showed that the new covenant couldn't simply be added onto the old covenant system (Jeremiah 31:31).

Q Why did Jesus call Himself Lord of the Sabbath?

A Because He has authority over the law and its true purpose (Daniel 7:13-14).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Mark 2

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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