

## CHAPTER 2



**A**fter some days, when Jesus came back to Capernaum, it was rumored that he was home. So many people gathered at the house, that there was no more room – not even by the door. As Jesus spoke the word to them, four men brought him a man sick of the palsy. They could not get near him because of the crowd so they removed the roof over Jesus. When they had made an opening, they let down the stretcher with the sick man lying upon it. When Jesus perceived their faith, he said to the palsied man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Certain scribes were sitting there, calculating in their hearts, *Why does this man speak this way? He uses foul language. For who can forgive sins but*

*One – even God?*

Immediately Jesus, sensing in his spirit that they were thinking these things, said, “Why do you think these things? Wasn’t it easier to say to the sick man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ than to say, *Get up, pick up your bed, and walk?* Nevertheless,” speaking now to the palsied man, Jesus said, “so that you will know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, I say to you, Get up, pick up your bed, and go home. So he stood up, grabbed his bed, and walked away in front of them all. The crowd was stunned and glorified God, saying, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!”



Jesus went for a walk by the sea and since the crowd walked with him, he taught them. As he walked, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tollbooth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And Levi got up and followed him. Later, Jesus had dinner at his house. There had been many that followed him that day, so other tax collectors and sinners also dined with

Jesus and his disciples.

When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and taxmen, they said to his disciples, “How is it that he eats and drinks with taxmen and sinners?”

When Jesus heard, he said to them, “When you are healthy, you don’t need a doctor but when you’re sick, you do. I didn’t come to call the righteous — but sinners.”



John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting so they came to Jesus to ask, “Why do John’s disciples and the apprentices of the Pharisees fast but your disciples don’t?”

Jesus answered them. “Can you expect the guests not to eat while the groom is with them? As long as the groom is with them, they cannot abstain. But the days are coming when the groom will be taken away from them. Then they will fast.

“No man sews a piece of new cloth on an old garment because the strong patch will rip away from the weaker material, making a bigger hole.

Nobody puts fresh wine into old skins because the new wine will burst the skins, and the wine will be lost with the skins. Instead they pour new wine into fresh skins.”



It came to pass on the Jewish day of rest that Jesus was walking through the fields. As they passed by, his disciples began to pluck the ears. The Pharisees said, “Look. Why do they do what is illegal on the day of rest?”

Again Jesus answered them. “Haven’t you read what David did when he was hungry — he and those that were with him? David entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the holy bread that is not lawful for anyone but priests to eat. Nevertheless, David gave some to them that were with him so that they would have something to eat too.”

Then Jesus made things clear by saying, “The day of rest was made for man — not man for the day. The Son of Man is Lord even of holy days.”