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*PREPARED FOR THE PERSPECTIVE*

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*WEEK 4*



# Week 4 - Prepared for Perspective

## Research

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Welcome back! Week 4! Today we are jumping into one of my favorite stories in all of the Bible. The story of the paralytic being lowered through the roof. Since we are probably unfamiliar with the concept of Jewish housing, I thought this would be a fun place to start.

Here are some notes I found from Charles Pope of ADW.org

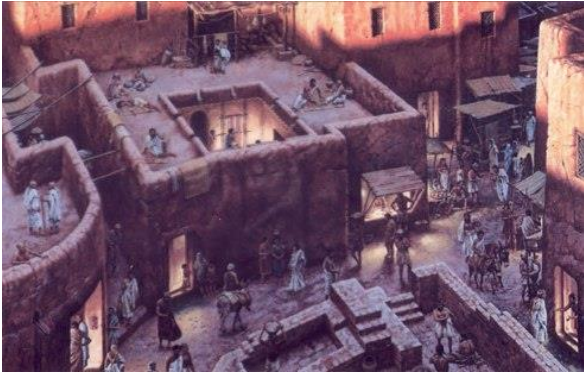


Families, sometimes including several generations, tended to live under one roof and had little or no privacy.

**The roof was of real importance in everyday life.** It was a flat roof with just enough slope to drain off the rainwater. Rainwater was carefully collected into cisterns or large containers, for in the more arid climate of the eastern Mediterranean every drop of water was precious. The roof of the house was flat and sturdy, enabling people to venture up on it. Since the roofs were used so often, the law of Deuteronomy required guardrails to be installed to prevent falling.



**The roof areas in effect provided an open second floor.** On the roof, tools would often be stored, laundry would be put out to dry, and people would often gather to talk, especially in the evening. Scripture also speaks of it as a place to retire and pray.



**As for the structure of the roofs**, wooden trusses were necessary, since the roof would be used as a kind of second floor. Then a kind of wattling or firm lattice of straw mats would be covered over and smoothed with hard clay. Yearly repairs were made just prior to the rainy season.

This is the setting of today's story. Let's jump straight into Mark 2.

## Making a Plan

Let's start by reading our main passage for the day. Pay attention to the different groups of people in the story and list them below:

**Mark 2:1–12** And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>[2]</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>[3]</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>[4]</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>[5]</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>[6]</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>[7]</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>[8]</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>[9]</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? <sup>[10]</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—<sup>[11]</sup> "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>[12]</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

**Group**

**Attitude**

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What is your overall impression of the story above?

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One of the assertions used by other religious groups against the divinity of Jesus, is the claim that Jesus never claimed to be God. Why didn't He ever just tell us He was God and Savior. Whenever I encounter this argument, I start in this passage.

Follow the logic of this passage with me.

## The Logic of God:

<sup>[5]</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

**Point 1: Jesus forgives his sins.**

**Jewish Scribes Premise: Only God can forgive sin.**

<sup>[6]</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>[7]</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

**Jewish Scribes Accusation: Blaspheming – Jesus is claiming to be God**

<sup>[9]</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?

**Conditional Statement: Which is easier?**

- **Forgiving sin** – No physical evidence but eternal blessing ... this cost Jesus everything
- **Healing the paralytic** – physical evidence of God but no eternal blessing ... healing is from God

*John 9:32–33 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."*

What are your thoughts on the logic so far?

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**TRUTH:** By Jesus forgiving the paralytic's sins, Jesus for claiming to be God.

**Jesus Proof: I am**

<sup>[10]</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”

Did Jesus just claim to be God? Sorry, lets keep going.

<sup>[10]</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”  
—he said to the paralytic—<sup>[11]</sup> “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” <sup>[12]</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

What are your thoughts on the logic above?

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Throughout the book of Mark, we will see a similar scenario take place over and over.

- Amazement at physical healings but an ignorance to the spiritual things.

Without even recognizing it, we believe similarly. Would you rather have an easy physical life or have your sins forgiven? We know the right answer is our sins because that is an eternal decision, but honestly, when we have pain we might choose the physical.

Do you ever fall into this line of thinking?

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## Jesus is God!

There is no doubt that Jesus knew He was God and claimed it. Here are some other examples and under each verse, explain how this is a claim to divinity.

- *John 8:58–59* Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” [59] So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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- *John 10:30*, “I and the Father are one.

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- *Matthew 16:15–17* He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” [16] Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” [17] And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

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- **Luke 22:70–71** So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” [71] Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.”
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## Checking the List



### Jesus is God

Do you believe that Jesus is God?

- **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

What effect does this belief have on your life?



### Jesus changes our perspective

How does viewing Jesus as God change your perspective?

- **Colossians 3:2** *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*



### Our perspective affects how we treat others.

Why is perspective so important?

- **2 Corinthians 4:18** As we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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## Packing Up

### FREINDSHIP:

Wouldn't it be great to have a set of friends like the paralytic? How would you define friendship?

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What do these verses teach us about friendship?

- **Proverbs 27:17** *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

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- **Proverbs 17:17** *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

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- **1 Corinthians 15:33** *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."*

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- *Proverbs 13:20* Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

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Friendship is vital to our walk with Christ. Having someone else to walk the PATH with you, will bring you – life and comfort. How has friendship strengthened you in you walk with Christ?

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Spend a moment in pray for your friends. Let the Lord guide you in this time and in the space below make a note if God wants you to encourage them.

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What do we need to pack into our bags for the adventure that lies before us?

**MIRACLES**

**FORGIVEN**

**PHYSICAL HEALING**

**SPIRITUAL HEALING**

**FREINDSHIP**

**POWER**

If you could only pick 2 of these phrases above to put into your heart and mind, which would you choose and why?

Choice 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Why?

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Choice 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Why?

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Finish your time together with a time of prayer for friends. Lord, we pray that we can be a friend that points people to Jesus.

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