

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

# "The Wilderness of Guilt"

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12



*The Wilderness of*  
**GUILT**

1st Sunday in Lent

## **AUTHOR**

John Mark accompanied the Apostle Paul on his first missionary journey and is thought to have also been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples.

## **CONTEXT**

The Gospel of Mark was written between AD 55 and 65. The setting for Mark is the Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar. For a century or so before Jesus was born, the region had been overrun by Romans who had marched in and taken over. The Romans were seen by most as the enemy and people wanted them gone. Mark writes to encourage Roman Christians and prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

As we read the scripture passage for today, Jesus' ministry has begun. He has preached and healed with large crowds surrounding him. Now, Jesus has returned home to Capernaum and word has spread so his home is packed with visitors. While he's preaching to them, four men arrive and unable to get in, they lower a paralyzed man through the roof in front of Jesus.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What were Jesus' words to the paralyzed man?
2. What was the punishment for this sin (healing the man's sins) according to the law? (See Leviticus 24:15,16)
3. What was the reaction of the teachers of religious law?
4. Do we ever neglect to see the needs around us?
5. Are we sometimes like the teachers of the law who like to sit and criticize?
6. Jesus healed the paralyzed man. What was the people's response?

## **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Jesus can identify with our deepest needs and sufferings and help us overcome sin.

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