

## **Which Is Easier**

Mark 2:1-22

by Don Falkos

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A large crowd gathered to hear Jesus teach. Four men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They tried to take him inside, but the house was so crowded they couldn't get in. So they went up on the roof, removed some of the tiles, and lowered the man down on his mat, right in front of Jesus.

Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Some experts in the Law said to each other, "This is blasphemy. Only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, "Which is easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Get up and walk'? I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go home." And he did.

Everyone there praised God, "This is the most amazing thing we have ever seen!"

Then one day Jesus visited the home of a new follower, a tax collector named Levi. He was questioned by some Pharisees, "Why do you eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus responded, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do."

When asked, "Why don't your disciples fast?" Jesus replied, "You can't expect the guests at a wedding to fast while the bridegroom is with them. When the bridegroom is taken away, that will be the time for fasting.

"No one uses a piece of new cloth to patch an old garment. The new patch will shrink, creating an even larger hole than before.

"No one puts new wine into old wineskins. As the new wine ferments, it will expand and burst the old wineskins. The wine will be lost and the skins ruined. New wine has to be put into new wineskins."