

## THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

In **Mark 2:1-12**, we have a remarkable account that ends with the bystanders exclaiming, *“We have never seen anything like this!”* It must be interesting if it made such an impression on those who witnessed the event. What did Jesus do that was so remarkable?

Jesus had performed several miracles of healing and exorcism in **chapter 1**. The crowds became very large and intense as the fame of Jesus spread. There was such a crowd in and around a house in Capernaum. Four men showed enough faith and concern for their friend that they did not let the crowds prevent them from reaching Jesus. They broke through the ceiling to get to Him! He was impressed with the faith of the paralytic’s friends. However, to the paralytic He said, *“Son, your sins are forgiven you.”*

Some of the scribes were concerned that Jesus blasphemed because they knew that only God truly forgives sins. Jesus could read their minds (His first supernatural act) and answered their internal objection and question (**v.6-7**) in verses **8** through **11**. He clearly stated that He gave the man power to take up his bed and walk in order to prove that He had authority on earth to forgive sins. The people glorified God as a result of this event (**v.12**).

Jesus did not heal the man just to make him well. The paralytic had a greater need. He needed God’s forgiveness. The miracle proved Jesus could forgive him. The miracle proved Jesus is God.