

Mark 2 *When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people^[a] came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

It strikes me as interesting that the scribes want to have a theological discussion in the midst of a miracle in the making. There is certainly a time to analyze and try to understand what is happening, but it is a little like taking notes on a sunset rather than experiencing the moment. True the scribes are less interested in experiencing being in the presence of God and more interested in stopping Jesus and I hope we don't do that. There is a story that Thomas Aquinas, one of Roman Catholicism's most prominent theologians had an experience of the divine and stopped writing or even talking except to tell his secretary that he was done. I pray that our theology does not get in the way of an actual experience of God.

Let us pray, Lord, be present in my life in such a way that I know it with more than my head and share it with more than my words. Amen