

Peter Remembers — Texts 8

Five Conflict Stories About the “Authority” (ἐξουσία) of Jesus – Mark 2.1—3.6

Mark 2.1-12 — The Paralytic Lowered from the Roof

Mark 2.13-17 — The Tax Collector

Mark 2.18-22 — A Question About Fasting

Mark 2.23-28 — A Question About the Sabbath

Mark 3.1-6 — The Man With the Withered Hand

Mark 2 ¹ And again he entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that he was at home (ἐν οἴκῳ). ² Immediately many gathered together, so that there was longer room to receive them, not even at the door. And he was speaking the word to them (ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον). ³ Then they approached, carrying to him a paralytic, borne by four men. ⁴ And unable to come near him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was. So when they had broken through, they lowered the pallet (τὸν κράβαττον) on which the paralytic lay.

⁵ Jesus, seeing their faith (τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν), said to the paralytic, “Child (τέκνον), your sins are forgiven you (ἀφίενταί σου αἱ ἁμαρτίαι — רַחֵם יְיָ לְךָ בְּיָמֶיךָ).” ⁶ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts (διαλογιζόμενοι ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν), ⁷ “Why does he say this? He blasphemes (βλασφημεῖ)! Who can forgive sins (ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας — הַיְיָ לְמַשְׁבֵּק) but God alone?”

⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves (ὅτι οὕτως διαλογίζονται ἐν ἑαυτοῖς), he said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts (ταῦτα διαλογίζεσθε ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν)? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins (ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου — שׁוֹן בְּרַ — ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας)” — he said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house.” ¹² Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “Never did we see the like!”

Mark 14 ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy (ἤκούσατε τῆς βλασφημίας)! What do you think?”

Leviticus 24 ¹¹ And the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the Name and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. . . . ¹² Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the Lord might be shown to them. ¹³ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁴ Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

Mathew 18 ¹⁸ “Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

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³ Then they approached, carrying to him a paralytic, borne by four men. ⁴ And unable to come near him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where he was. So when they had broken through, they lowered the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

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⁶ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts,

⁷ “Why does he say this? He blasphemes! Who can forgive sins (ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας) but God alone?”

⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, he said to them,

“Why do you reason about these things in your hearts (ταῦτα διαλογίζεσθε ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν)?

⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’?

¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins (ἐξουσίαν . . . ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας)— he said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I say to you, arise, take up your pallet, and go to your house.”

¹² Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “Never did we see the like!”

Matthew 9 ¹ So he got into a boat, crossed over, and came to his own city.

² Then behold, they brought to him a paralytic lying on a bed (ἐπὶ κλίνης).

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, child, your sins are forgiven you (ἀφίενταί σου αἱ ἁμαρτίαι).”

³ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “He blasphemes!

⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts (τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν), said,

“Why do you think evil in your hearts (πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν)?

⁵ For which is easier, to say, ‘Sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?

⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins (ἐξουσίαν . . . ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας)— then he said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

⁷ And he arose and departed to his house.

⁸ Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God,

who had given such authority to men (ἐδόξασαν τὸν θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις).