



# Daily Reflections

**January 13, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 2:1-12**

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home.

Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them.

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him.

After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to him, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" –he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

A cancer is healed, after a challenging pregnancy a child is born and is perfectly healthy, troubled marriages are reconciled, addicts recover and go on to assist other addicts....so often people attribute these "successes" to human effort and ingenuity alone. For the person of faith, however, Jesus is at the root of them all. It is so easy these days to fall into the trap of acting like the Pharisees and scribes who could not phantom that Jesus could perform such miraculous acts. But He did and continues to do so today.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Outside of the United States, there are few taboos against subject matter for television commercials.

However, according to an article in Great Britain's *The Daily Telegraph*, an Australian ad agency's use of a Biblical miracle to market Sizzler in that country has incensed many Australian Catholics.

The 30-second TV spot, created by John Singleton Advertising, parodies the New Testament's miracle of the loaves and fishes, where Christ multiplied two fish and five loaves into enough food for thousands of his followers. In the commercial a bystander is told what Jesus is doing. The bystander

responds, "How about some prawns and scallops? Or a big, juicy steak with Greek salad?"

The first man says to Christ, "Jesus, where does he think he is -- Sizzler?" The Jesus character simply looks heavenward with an exasperated expression.

Rev. Brian Lucas, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church in Australia, called the commercial "irresponsible," adding that it "borders on blasphemy."

The ad reportedly was pulled in the wake of the protests.

--Paul King

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## **Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Open my eyes to Your wonderful presence in my life and in our world. May I never doubt that You are here with me. Amen.

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