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# Jonathan

**Bible Reading: Mark 2.1-12**

**Peter J Blackburn**

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*This dialogue imagines a scene where Michael, visiting relatives in Capernaum, visits Jonathan, the paralysed man whose four friends lowered him through the roof so that Jesus could heal him. The drama assumes that Michael would see enough to convince him it has been a genuine healing, but also focuses on the pain of guilt from which Jesus released him.*

## Jonathan

The scene is the back blocks of Capernaum. Michael is a young man from Jerusalem. He has been visiting relatives. Today he has come to see Jonathan.

JONATHAN: Nice to meet you, Michael. I don't think we've met before.

MICHAEL: Quite true, but I have seen you – just once – a few days ago.

JONATHAN: So you were there?

MICHAEL: At Ben Enoch's house? Yes!

JONATHAN: And that's what has brought you here today?

MICHAEL: It certainly is! I saw what happened, heard it all. I was right near Jesus. See this lump of mud? Because of the crowd, I couldn't dodge it – it landed on my shoulder!

JONATHAN: My four friends were enthusiastic – keen to get me to see Jesus!

MICHAEL: Jonathan, I came with questions...

JONATHAN: Because you didn't know me, you weren't sure I was genuine? You thought it might all be a "put up" job, right?

MICHAEL: Well, I did wonder! But now that I'm here, in your house – now I see your bed, your sticks – the evidence of your suffering!

JONATHAN: For many years now, Michael. And no cure! But that's not all – a worse agony within!

MICHAEL: What do you mean?

JONATHAN: Jesus has released me from the guilt of sins long past. Paralysed, I could no longer do them. Yet my mind went over them again and again.

MICHAEL: The officials didn't like Jesus forgiving your sins – they gave one another black looks! I heard one of them mutter, "It's blasphemy!"

JONATHAN: Did they say that? I don't think they know who Jesus is! Not that I do myself, just now!

So the conversation went on. What had happened to Jonathan those few days before? We need to go back to the record in Mark 2.1-12.

Reader: **Mark 2.1-12.**