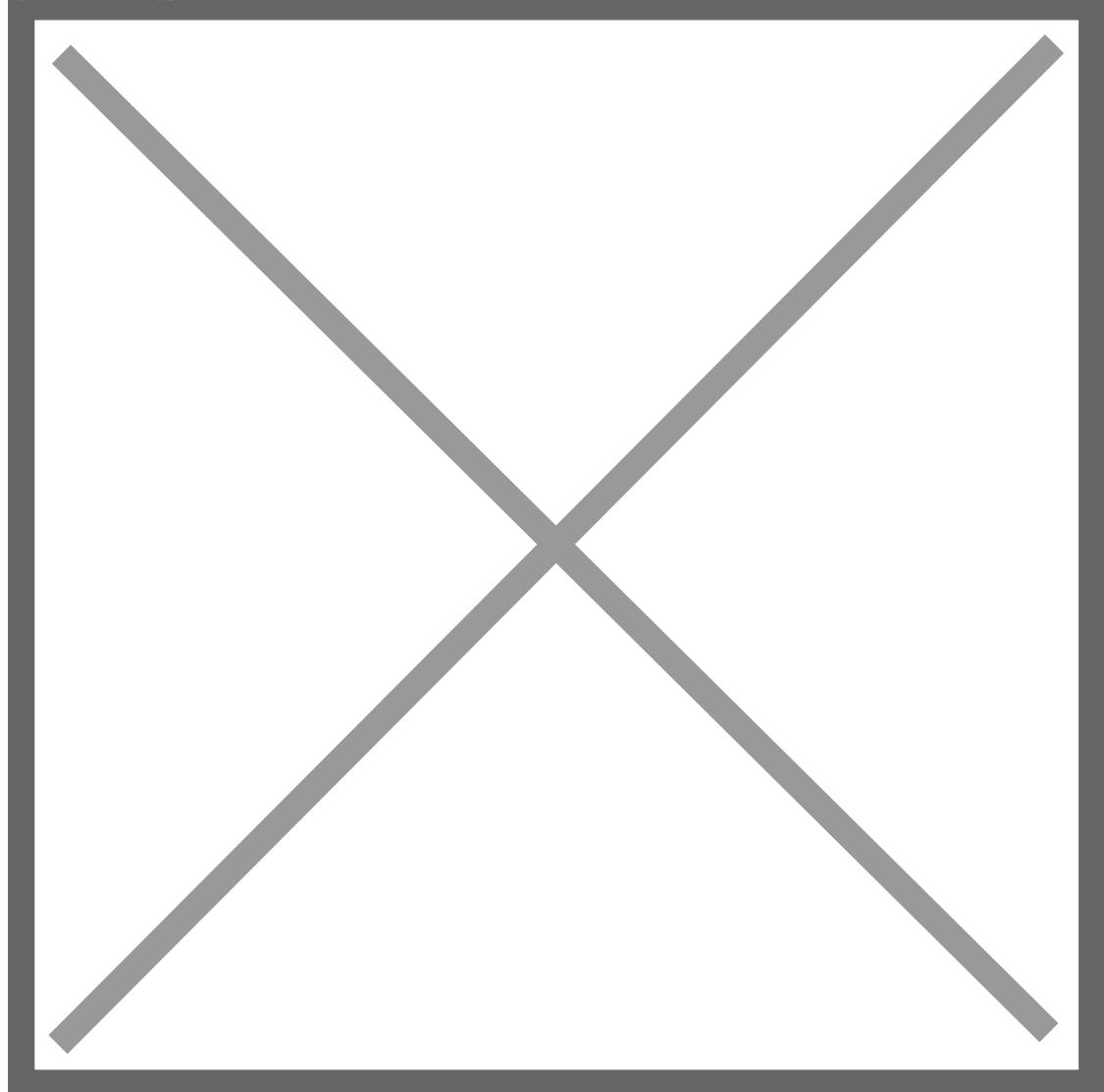


---

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## **Having a rule for confession**

---



*When Jesus returned to Capernaum, word went round that he was back; and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as the crowd made it impossible to get the man to him, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'My child, your sins are forgiven.' Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves, 'How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?' Jesus, inwardly aware that this was what they were thinking, said to them, 'Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts? Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven" or to say, "Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk"? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,' – he turned to the paralytic – 'I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.' And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astounded and praised God saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.' (M*

*ark 2, 1-12)*

When the paralytic is lowered from the roof of the house in Capernaum, Jesus heals him, first spiritually, rewarding not only the faith of the sick man but also of those who brought him, with commitment and perseverance, to see Him. Today let us dwell carefully on the fact that what should concern us most is our eternal salvation more than our physical health, albeit important. Do we take seriously the commitment to go regularly to the sacrament of confession and not only on certain occasions or when we feel like it. Setting yourself a rule is the best way to be faithful to commitment.