

"Faith and Forgiveness"

Mark 2: 1-12

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Background

Join us on Sunday as we continue our sermon series "Jesus is Good News." This Sunday, we'll look at Mark 2:1-12 and the story of Jesus healing and forgiving a paralyzed man in Capernaum. This story highlights two central topics of belief and practice for all Christians; faith and forgiveness. It is a special story about the good news of the Kingdom of God coming near in a very powerful and tangible way! See you Sunday!

Sermon Text *Mark 2:1-12*

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying

on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. The Fountain Metaphor & Kingdom Agency

The sermon uses the front-yard fountain as a metaphor for the "already, but not yet" Kingdom of God, where dirty water near the bottom cannot simply be pumped out, but must be continuously displaced by pouring in fresh water. How does this perspective change how you view your daily role as a "kingdom agent" in a broken world? Where in your immediate sphere of influence (workplace, neighborhood, or family) do you see stagnant or "polluted water" that needs the proactive infusion of salt and light rather than just surface-level cleanup?

2. The "Crowd" (*ochlos*) vs. The "House" (*oikos*)

Pastor Darren draws attention to Mark's deliberate contrast between the crowd (*ochlos*) watching passively from the outside and those inside or entering the house (*oikos*). In what areas of your spiritual life are you tempted to stay in the

safety of the crowd—relying on intellectual knowledge *about* Jesus—rather than taking the risky, active steps necessary to experience Him directly as Lord?

3. Audacious Faith and "Roof-Breaking" Intercession

The four friends demonstrated an audacious, rule-breaking, and disruptive faith by digging through someone else's roof to lower their paralyzed friend right in front of Jesus. What does "roof-breaking" faith look like in your personal relationships today? Who in your life currently needs you and others to help carry their "mat" to Jesus, and what cultural or practical barriers might you need to break through to get them there?

4. Unsolicited Forgiveness and Spiritual vs. Physical Needs

Jesus forgave the paralyzed man's sins before the man even asked for forgiveness—in fact, the man only came seeking physical healing. What does this reveal about God's heart and priorities toward us? Why do we often focus primarily on asking God to change our physical circumstances or external problems rather than allowing Him to address the deeper, spiritual state of our soul?

5. Exposing What Is on Your Mat

The sermon challenges us to consider what personal burden, hidden sin, relational conflict, or deep wound we need to put on a mat and lower down before Jesus. What is one burden you have hesitated to bring fully to Jesus, and what fears or assumptions about His response have kept you from lowering it through the roof?