

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 1ST, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHORITY (MARK 2:1–12)

JESUS' GALILEAN MINISTRY

Jesus was in the region of Galilee during this time and used the home of Simon Peter in the city of Capernaum as a base of operations during His early ministry.

- The news of Jesus' miraculous works had spread in such a way that everywhere He went crowds formed as He continued **"speaking the word to them."**

"THEY REMOVED THE ROOF ABOVE HIM"

There was standing room only and all routes to Jesus were blocked. But four people were so determined to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus that they tore a hole in the roof large enough to lower their friend down to Him.

- **Do we display this type of determination and faith? What is stopping us from entering into Jesus' presence?**

"SEEING THEIR FAITH..."

His friends had faith that they would not have to pull him back up through the roof, but that he was walking out. The paralytic had enough faith to allow his friends to drag him to the roof and lower him down after damaging someone's house.

- **Real faith can be seen. Faith is not something we just say we have but something we show we have** (James 2:18).

AUTHORITY TO HEAL AND FORGIVE SINS

Jesus knew the man's greatest need was to address his sin and not his inability to walk. But Jesus, calling him "son," **showed great love and care** by choosing to heal the man.

- It may not always be His will to heal physical ailments, but **it is always His will to forgive sins** (2 Peter 3:9). **Not all physical ailments are the result of sin** (John 9:3).

"JESUS PERCEIVED IN HIS SPIRIT..."

Jesus knew the scribes were questioning His authority in their hearts. Though they were correct in believing that only God could forgive sins, they missed that Jesus was God in flesh.

- Speaking to their hearts, Jesus asked, **"Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk?'"**

"SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW..." (V. 10)

Jesus could have only said that the man's sins were forgiven, but there was no evidence to prove he had the authority to make such a claim. **Jesus healed the man to provide evidence that he had authority to forgive sins.**

- The man walking out with mat in hand proved Jesus' authority, and as in Mark 1:22, **the people were amazed.**

FOLLOWING (MARK 2:13–17)

INTERESTING CHOICE FOR A DISCIPLE

Jesus saw Levi (Matthew), a tax collector, and said to him, **"Follow me,"** and he got up and followed.

- Tax collectors were not just gathering taxes for Rome; they bought the rights to conduct business for Rome and extorted their own people to recoup what was paid and make a profit. They were **the most hated people in Israel**, viewed as traitors and extortioners.

FRIEND OF SINNERS

The scribes viewed Jesus sitting with sinners and tax collectors as acceptance of sin because to sit and have a meal with someone was a sign of friendship and acceptance.

- At this "going away" party for Matthew, those who sat at the table with Jesus had **the opportunity to respond to His friendship and love by leaving their past behind and following Him.**

"WHEN THE SCRIBES WHO WERE PHARISEES..."

Jesus overheard the Pharisees (an influential religious group within Judaism) questioning His disciples, so He responded to them in a simple yet profound way.

- He told them, **"It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners"** (v. 17).

WE ALL NEED TO SEE "THE PHYSICIAN"

Jesus was not saying that Pharisees were not "sick" and in need of a doctor but pointing out that **a person must recognize their own "sickness" first.**

- Waiting rooms at doctors' offices are not filled with healthy people trying to see the doctor but, instead, are filled with **those who have recognized their sickness and have turned to the doctor for help.**

FASTING AND THE SABBATH (MARK 1:18–28)

THE PRACTICE OF FASTING

Jewish traditions held that everyone would fast at least once a year on the Day of Atonement, but some people fasted more frequently, including the disciples of John the Baptizer.

- The Pharisees, who made sure people knew how spiritual they were, fasted twice a week (Matthew 6:16–18).

REMAINING RELEVANT WITHOUT COMPROMISE

People noticed that Jesus' followers did not follow the customs of fasting like the Pharisees and John's disciples, so they asked Jesus why His disciples did not fast.

- Jesus answered them in a way they could understand. **His message never changes, but the way He communicated varied depending on the audience.**

CALLS FOR CELEBRATION

Jewish weddings were week-long celebrations that rabbis declared should be filled with feasting and great joy, instead of religious rituals like fasting.

- Jesus is saying the engagement has ended. His disciples are no longer awaiting this union with the bridegroom; His coming is a cause for celebration.

"THE GROOM WILL BE TAKEN AWAY"

Jesus is alluding to His arrest and death on a cross by communicating that the day will come when He will not physically be with His disciples (v. 20).

- Jesus was not against fasting but was showing that it had its time and place in the Christian life. While He was with them, they celebrated, but the need to fast would resume when He was physically gone.

FAMILIAR ANALOGIES TO THE AUDIENCE

Jesus illustrated the incompatibility of the "old order" and the "new order" He ushered in.

- New cloth cannot be sewn as a patch on an old garment because it will shrink when washed and possibly tear the garment. New wine that had not fermented would expand and burst old, brittle wineskins, so fresh wineskins were needed.

OFFERING SOMETHING NEW

Jesus' point would have been clear: The new life he offered would not fit into old forms.

- God is not wanting to "patch" or mend our hearts; He is offering us new ones (Ezekiel 36:26). He gives us a new nature and transforms us into a new creation because His Spirit ("new wine") cannot be put into old "wineskins."

THEY VIOLATED TRADITIONS

The Pharisees accused Jesus and His disciples of breaking the Sabbath by picking and eating heads of grain as they traveled.

- Jesus refers to a time when Ahimelech broke priestly customs by giving David holy bread to eat (1 Samuel 21:1–6). This reference shows that the Pharisees have placed religious rituals above human need.

"THE SON OF MAN IS LORD EVEN OF THE SABBATH"

Jesus and His followers never violated the command to observe the Sabbath, but the Pharisees had made this day of rest from labor into a heavy burden of rule keeping.

- This command was a gift for us, not a burden to be carried by us. Though conversations around the Sabbath would continue, Jesus declared His lordship over the law.

JESUS, THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

- **His diagnosis is always perfect.** Do not resist conviction. What Jesus reveals in us, He means to heal in us.
- **He is always available.** Any of us can be forgiven if we come to Him with repentance (recognizing our "sickness") and accept His sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of sins ("healing").

JESUS IS LORD OF ALL

- The Great Physician came to remedy the greatest problem of all: **Our sin separates us from our Creator and, if not addressed, we will be separated from Him for eternity.**
- We must **receive Jesus as our Savior**, then **submit to Him as Lord**. Many of us will cry out for saving but then be unwilling to submit our new lives to Him.