

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 1ST, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

### HEARTS (MARK 2:1-12) AT HOME

It is unlikely that Jesus owned a house in Capernaum. It is more likely that Peter's home had become Jesus' home base. A few verses earlier, He had left Capernaum to visit other villages to preach. Since that time, He has become even more "famous."

- **He came to speak the Word. Many were looking for physical healing, but Jesus had more to give than anyone imagined.**

### THEY CAME TO HIM

In a bold display of faith, four friends stop at nothing to get their paralytic friend into the presence of Jesus. Surely, they could hear Jesus, but they knew healing would come if they could get him WITH Jesus.

- **Perseverance does not produce salvation, but it can put people in a place where Jesus can respond to faith. How much effort are we willing to make for our friends?**

### SON, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN

After seeing their faith, Jesus called the paralytic "son" and pronounced forgiveness of his sins.

- **Many believed that every physical disorder was a direct result of personal sin, and there was a process within the law to address that sin. Jesus saw the heart of this man and responded to the more pressing need: FORGIVENESS.**

### PERCEIVED IN HIS SPIRIT

Jesus could see the hearts of everyone in the room and knew that some were insulted by His display of authority. They recognized that Jesus was saying He had the authority to forgive sin. This was a problem for them because only God can forgive sin.

- **Hearts today still question if Jesus is really God. They wonder if Jesus can forgive their sin. Yes, because Jesus IS God.**

### EXAMINE YOUR HEARTS

Jesus challenged the scribes to examine their hearts' reasoning for questioning His identity and authority. Many came for healing; they had come for the show. Now, they were being challenged to understand something that seemed more impossible than physical healing.

- **When we see Jesus, what are we hoping for? A show? Healing? Forgiveness?**

### ASTOUNDED

Despite the lack of room in the house, people still found Jesus. Despite the lack of room in their hearts, the scribes still gave glory to God. Once again, Jesus' actions revealed that He has the ability to heal bodies and hearts because He is God.

- **Are we blaming circumstances for our distance from God? Maybe we need to examine our hearts and make some room.**

### SICKNESS (MARK 2:13-17)

#### HE SAW LEVI

Jesus goes to where He can teach to even larger crowds. As He walked, He saw Levi the tax collector at work.

- **Levi was not fighting the crowd to get to Jesus. Jesus fought the crowd to get to Levi. The crowd hated Levi; Jesus loved him.**
- **Jesus seeks us. He has a message for us. How we respond will have an impact on our lives and the people around us.**

### HE GOT UP AND FOLLOWED HIM

Levi WAS a sinner and may have been more offensive to the "righteous" than a leper since he was choosing his condition.

- **As a new follower of Jesus, this hated man gave Jesus access to all of those like him who were also rejected by society as sinners.**
- **It is interesting that Levi did not align with the self-righteous but remembered that his friends needed an encounter with Jesus.**
- **Following Jesus means going where He goes.**

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Historically, doctors exist for those who are not well. Jesus reveals that His purpose in coming into the present world was to reach those who recognized that they were spiritually sick. Like a good physician, He did not separate Himself from "those types of people."

- **People need Jesus, and they know it. Are we willing to see them? Meet them? Share with them?**
- **One kind of righteousness will keep us away. The righteousness of Jesus will send us out.**

### TRADITION (MARK 2:18-22)

#### JOHN'S DISCIPLES AND THE PHARISEES

Fasting was common among the religious for various reasons. Jesus was baptized by John but did not follow John's traditional fasting practice, and He did not follow the practice of the Pharisees. To be at odds with religious leaders and the prophet could be perceived as arrogance or error.

- **To answer their question, Jesus shares three quick parables.**

### THE GROOM IS WITH THEM

Jesus reveals Himself as the Bridegroom before the wedding. He was in their presence, and it was time to enjoy Him. A time of fasting was coming but not while Jesus was with them.

- **The time to fast is when we consider the infinite price paid for our sin by our Savior.**

### UNSHRUNK CLOTH

Sewing unshrunk cloth on old cloth will create an even bigger hole. Jesus was saying they should not attempt to make His ministry conform to theirs because His work did not fit the work of the Pharisees.

- **Jesus was the real thing, not a patch. The old was a shadow (Hebrews 10:1) and had become holey.**
- **Jesus makes us whole through His holiness. He came to make us new! Do we just want to fix what we have?**

### NEW WINE

The last parable reveals that Jesus will make all things new. New wine will bust an old wineskin.

Jesus shows He would not conform to the habits of John and the Pharisees just for the sake of their tradition, because the past (old wineskins) and the future (new wine) would both be lost.

- **Traditions aren't necessarily bad, but when they keep us from from worshiping, following, and sharing Christ, we need to check our motives.**

### UNDERSTANDING (MARK 2:23-28)

#### THE SABBATH AND THE LAW

This is the second Sabbath encounter in Mark. The first story about the teacher who cast out an unclean spirit on the Sabbath had spread through the land. Now, the Pharisees caught Jesus' disciples "working" on the Sabbath—something they understood was absolutely against the law.

- **Legalism is tradition on deadly drugs. It makes us look to ourselves rather than Christ for our spiritual status before God and makes us think we are the spiritual elite when we are actually spiritual slaves. It is addictive!**

### HAVE YOU NEVER READ?

Jesus reminds them that when David took the Bread of the Presence (12 loaves set on a table in the holy place only for priests) and fed his companions, it was not condemned.

- While it was not normal or lawful for David and his men to eat the bread, it was even more the case that God did not want them to starve.
- **The Pharisees wrongly had made the law their God instead of seeking the God of the law, and the Sabbath had become another God to serve.**

### THE SABBATH WAS MADE

Jesus offered clarity to their misplaced worship. Being greater than David, and actually the Lord and Creator of the Sabbath, He declared the Sabbath was for them and should not be their master.

- **Simply, the Sabbath was made for human enjoyment and to experience the blessing of God's presence. It was never meant to be a burden to be lifted up by shallow observance.**
- **The Lord's Day, and every day, is a blessing that lifts us up, not a burden that weighs us down.**

### BARRIERS

- There is always something.
- **It seems like barriers find their way into everything. They are hard to move.**
- **Some barriers are made by us and some by others. Either way, we still need to find a way to get through. The truth is, Jesus isn't limited by barriers. We just think He is because we are.**

### PAST

- Our past informs our present.
- **Yes, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and our own experience.**
- **The problem is that not everyone before us was right in their understanding and we have not done the work to find the truth. Jesus knows all that and still wants us! The questions are: Do we want Him? And, are we ready for something new?**

### LIMITED

- We want to understand and label everything.
- **Because we are limited, we understand and know less than we think we do.**
- **Jesus is without those limits. He is God. He made all things. He understands His Word and us. He is Lord of EVERY DAY. What will our lives be like if we surrender to Him? What barrier do we need Him to move?**