



SERMON: A Very Different Kind of Kingdom – *“Faith That Tears Off the Roof!”*

Watch [this week's sermon](#)

Read [Mark 1:40-2:17](#) – “Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy,” “Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man,” & “Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew)”

- In just these few chapters, Jesus touches a leper, forgives a paralyzed man's sins, and eats dinner with known sinners. Which of those three moments surprises you most and why? What does it tell you about the kind of person Jesus gravitates toward? How does that compare to what you expected from a religious leader?
- The four friends went to extraordinary lengths to get their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus. What do you think drove that kind of determination? Have you ever had someone go out of their way to bring you closer to Jesus, or have you done that for someone else? What made it worth the effort?
- Pastor Mike pointed out that Jesus said "your sins are forgiven" before healing the man physically, giving him what he needed most first. Why do you think it's easy to treat forgiveness as the routine part and the miracle as the main event? How does it change your faith when you sit with just how enormous it is that your sins are actually forgiven? What would it look like to live this week as someone who genuinely believes that the forgiveness of sins is the greatest thing that has ever happened to them?
- Jesus didn't just forgive the paralyzed man, he sent him walking out through a crowd of stunned onlookers carrying the mat he used to lie on. Who in your life is still on the mat and needs someone with enough faith to tear off a roof for them? What would it look like for you to stop waiting for the right moment and actually bring them to Jesus this week? What is the one thing that has been holding you back from taking that step, and is that reason big enough to leave your friend on the mat?

Read [Psalm 103:2-3](#) – “The Lord’s Goodness to His Children”

- David writes to himself, "Do not forget all his benefits." Why do you think we need that kind of reminder? What tends to crowd out gratitude for what God has already done? What's one benefit of following Jesus that you've genuinely stopped thinking about?
- The psalm pairs forgiveness and healing together as inseparable gifts from God. How does that pairing show up in what Jesus does in Mark 2? What does it suggest about how God sees the whole person, not just the spiritual side? Where in your own life have you experienced forgiveness and healing as connected rather than separate, and what did that teach you about how God works?
- Pastor Mike noted that Jesus was essentially living out this psalm when he forgave and then healed the paralyzed man, and the scribes completely missed it. What does it take to recognize what God is doing right in front of you? Where might you be missing what God is already doing in your own life or in someone close to you? What spiritual habits or practices help you stay attentive enough to notice God at work rather than only recognizing it in hindsight?

- David's song was a personal declaration meant to be rehearsed and remembered. What would it look like to build a regular, concrete practice of recalling what God has forgiven and healed in your life? How might that kind of gratitude change the way you talk about Jesus to people who don't yet know him? What is one specific thing God has done for you that you have not talked about with anyone in a long time, and who might need to hear that story?

Read [Philippians 2:6-8](#) – “Have the Attitude of Christ”

- Paul describes Jesus choosing not to grasp his equality with God but instead humbling himself to become one of us. What is your initial reaction to that kind of deliberate downward move? Does it feel inspiring, confusing, or something else entirely? What does it say about the character of God that this is how he chose to save the world?
- Pastor Mike used this passage to explain why Jesus needed to rest and kept the Sabbath, because taking on human form meant taking on human limitations. How does knowing Jesus lived inside the same physical limits you do change the way you relate to him? Does it make him feel more trustworthy, more relatable, both, or something else? What difference does it make to bring your exhaustion, your weakness, or your limitations to someone who actually knows what those feel like?
- The sermon challenged the idea that we're too busy or too young or in too demanding a season to need a Sabbath rest. How does the fact that Jesus himself rested reframe the way you think about rest, not as laziness but as an act of trust? What would genuinely honoring a Sabbath rhythm look like in your actual life right now? What is the biggest obstacle standing between you and that kind of rest, and is it really as immovable as it feels?
- Jesus' humility wasn't passive, it was the very mechanism through which salvation came. How does this passage challenge the way ambition, status, or the need to be seen shows up in your own life? Where is Jesus inviting you to make a deliberate downward move in service of someone else? What would it cost you, and what might God do through it?

Read [Hebrews 10:19-22](#) – “A Call to Persevere”

- The writer says we can now enter the Most Holy Place boldly because of what Jesus has done. What word or phrase in this passage stands out to you most? What does "boldly" feel like in practice when it comes to prayer or approaching God? What would it look like for your prayer life to actually reflect the kind of bold access this passage says you have?
- Pastor Mike connected the torn temple curtain at the end of Mark's gospel to the roof torn open in Mark 2, saying Jesus keeps blowing holes through barriers that keep people from God. Where have you personally experienced a barrier between you and God coming down? What made the difference? Is there a barrier you are still treating as intact that Jesus has already torn open, and what would it take for you to actually walk through it?
- The passage calls us to "draw near" with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith. What tends to make you hold back from drawing near to God – guilt, distraction, doubt, busyness? How does the reality that the curtain is already torn challenge the reasons you give for keeping your distance? What would it look like to take one specific step toward God this week rather than waiting until you feel more ready or more worthy?
- This kind of full access to God was unimaginable before Jesus, and it's still largely unimaginable to people who haven't heard the gospel. How does knowing you have this kind of bold access change the urgency with which you want others to have it too? What's one person you could invite into that same open door this week? What is stopping you from making that invitation, and is that reason bigger than the access you have?

APPLICATION: Pick one to put into practice this week.

1. **Bring someone to the feet of Jesus this week.** The four friends didn't wait for a better opportunity — they tore open a roof. Think of one person in your life who is hurting, lost, or carrying something heavy. Do one concrete thing this week to move them closer to Jesus: send a text, make a call, extend an invitation to church or a Bible study, or simply commit to praying for them by name every day this week.
2. **Let "your sins are forgiven" actually land.** Pastor Mike challenged us not to take forgiveness for granted or treat it as the routine part of the gospel. Set aside ten minutes this week to write down three or four specific things you know Jesus has forgiven you for. Don't rush past them. Sit with each one long enough to feel the weight of what it cost and the freedom of what it gave you, then close with a prayer of genuine gratitude.
3. **Honor the Sabbath as an act of faith, not laziness.** Jesus stopped the momentum of his ministry to rest and pray, and Mark places that moment at the very center of his narrative on purpose. This week, identify one specific block of time, even just a few hours, where you will put down work, silence your phone, and rest intentionally. Treat it not as a reward you earned but as a declaration that God is in charge and you are not.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & QUESTIONS

View this week's [Daily Bible Readings](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20	21	22	23	24
Mark 2:13-22	Mark 2:23-28	Mark 3:1-35	Mark 4:1-25	Mark 4:26-34

Monday, April 20: Mark 2:13-22

1. Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector and notorious sinner, and immediately Levi throws a party and invites all his friends. When you picture that scene, what stands out to you about the kind of people Jesus chose to spend time with, and how does that challenge any assumptions you carry about who belongs near Jesus?
2. The Pharisees are bothered that Jesus is eating with sinners, and Jesus responds that sick people need a doctor, not healthy ones. Where do you most naturally place yourself in that scene — among those who feel they belong, or among those who wonder if they do — and what does Jesus' response say directly to wherever you are right now?

Tuesday, April 21: Mark 2:23-28

1. The Pharisees accuse Jesus' disciples of breaking the Sabbath by picking grain as they walk, and Jesus pushes back by reminding them of what David did when his men were hungry. What does that response reveal about how Jesus reads the heart behind a rule versus the rule itself, and where do you notice yourself applying religious expectations in ways that miss the point?
2. Jesus declares that the Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. Pastor Mike preached that rest is a gift, not a test of religiosity. How does that framing change the way you think about your own rhythms of rest, and what would it look like this week to receive the Sabbath as something God designed for your benefit rather than your performance?

Wednesday, April 22: Mark 3:1-35

1. In this chapter Jesus heals on the Sabbath, appoints twelve disciples, is accused of being possessed by Satan, and then redefines his family as anyone who does God's will. When you read those scenes together, what picture do they give you of the kind of kingdom Jesus is building, and which moment in the chapter challenges you the most?
2. Jesus says that whoever does the will of God is his brother, sister, and mother. How does that invitation stretch your understanding of what it means to belong to Jesus, and where do you sense him calling you to live as a member of his family in a more visible or committed way this week?

Thursday, April 23: Mark 4:1-25

1. Jesus tells the parable of the sower, where the same seed lands on four very different kinds of soil and produces four very different results. When you honestly assess your own life right now, which kind of soil do you think best describes where you are, and what do you think is most responsible for that?
2. Jesus says, "Pay attention to what you hear," and warns that those who have will receive more while those who don't will lose even what they have. How does that warning sit with you as someone who is regularly hearing God's word through sermons, daily readings, and community?

Friday, April 24: Mark 4:26-34

1. In both parables Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to something that grows quietly and almost imperceptibly, without the farmer fully understanding how. What does that image of slow, hidden growth say to you about the way God works in people's lives, and where have you seen that kind of growth happen in yourself or someone you know?
2. The mustard seed starts as the smallest of seeds and becomes large enough for birds to nest in its branches. Pastor Mike described Jesus' movement as something with momentum that invites us in rather than just asking us to observe from the sidelines. Where do you sense God doing something small in you right now that could grow into something much larger, and what would it look like to lean into that rather than dismiss it?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Daily devotions](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [Pastor Mike Drop!](#)
 - ["Gospel" – Word with Webb podcast](#)
- Videos:
 - [BibleProject - Mark](#) (video 1)
 - [BibleProject – Mark](#) (video 2)
- Articles:
 - ["What are the Gospels?" by Tim Mackie \(BibleProject\)](#)

