



*‘Now!’ Sermon Series*

Sermon #8

Sunday, May 26th, 2024

*‘A Home for the Hurting!’*

*Mark 2:1-12*

*Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:*

- Last week, we looked at the last of 7 sermons that focused on chapter 1 of Mark’s Gospel.
  - We looked closely at *Mark 1:40-45*, with a sermon entitled *‘Jesus Touched Me!’*
  - I asked the question: *How does this passage show us the power that Jesus has to heal and cleanse those, that otherwise, would have no hope?*
    - **Point 1: *An Unthinkable Request.* (V. 40)**
    - **Point 2: *A Unique Realization.* (V. 41-44)**

■ **Point 3: *An Untrustworthy Response.* (V. 45)**

- Based on last week’s message, do you know that you’ve been touched by Christ Jesus?
- How are you impacting others by sharing the ability to be touched by Jesus with them?

*‘A Home for the Hurting!’*

*Mark 2:1-12*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*Jesus shows us that as Christ followers that we as a Church can provide a Home for the Hurting by noticing what a Church that becomes a Home for the Hurting looks like. In this text, we see that it will be full, the Church will fulfill needs, the Church will face Naysayers, but the Church will follow Christ.*

**Intro:**

- When the NT Church was founded after Christ’s ascension to the right hand of the Father, there seemed to be three main focuses of the NT Church that we read about in Acts.
  - *Missions.*
  - *Ministering to Others.*
  - *Magnifying Christ.*
- In the American Church today, I believe that we’ve lost much of the focus of that of the NT Church.
  - *Over the centuries, the American Church specifically, has transitioned and positioned*

- itself to focus on entertainment instead of engagement.*
- The Church in America today focuses on lights, music, production, seating arrangements, power struggles, digital marketing, interior decorating, and all sorts of different things.
    - *While these things, and others, are ‘ok’ in their own right, they are not to be or to become the focus of the Church.*
  - *In my opinion, over many years, the Church has become a theater for entertainment, instead of a hospital for sinners.*
    - *As the Church, I do believe that each Christian is partially responsible for this drift away from the NT model of what a Church is supposed to be.*
  - We’ve created ideas, expectations and practices that focus more on entertaining people than they do helping the hurting.
    - *First Baptist Gaston is far from perfect and we are not absent from some of these distractions just mentioned.*
  - But, as a Church, we do seek to GATHER, GROW, and to GO.
    - While we aren’t perfect, we do seek to prioritize Missions, Ministering to Others, and Magnifying Christ.
- *This morning we arrive at Mark 2:1-12, where I believe we find a great example of what the Church (believers across the world) is to be doing today.*
    - We know that Jesus was staying at Peter’s home in Capernaum, and while there, the people came to Him. They were hurting, and He is the Healer.
      - *Our Churches should be a place where hurting people can come simply because the presence of the Lord is here.*
    - What we find this morning is a story of the forgiveness that only Jesus can offer.
      - *In chapter 1, Mark began to highlight the authorities of Jesus, but now, in chapter 2, He is going to highlight the most necessary aspect of Jesus divinity, His authority to forgive sins.*
  - *When studying Mark 2:1-12 in the Greek Text, I believe there are certain clues that give us important insight on this text:*
    - The healing of the Paralytic looks to be an older story that is introduced in the present tense. Present tense verbs in the Greek text are used in verses 3-11.
      - Verses 1-2 and verse 12, are the introduction and conclusion that Mark gives that are in the past tense.

- ***This is important because the present tense greek verbs that are used in verses 3-11, show us that it has an eyewitness touch to it, that undoubtedly had to come from peter himself.***

- Sure, I'm sure that Mark still wrote it, but I am saying that Peter provided the eyewitness content.

***\*Read Mark 2:1-12\****

### **Question to Ask:**

***What does a Church that becomes HOME for the hurting look like based on the example that Jesus gave?***

### **Point 1: *The Church Will be Full. (V. 1-2)***

- 'And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.'
- ***'After some days' gives separation between the narrative of the paralytic man and the preaching tour that Jesus went on in Galilee in Mark 1:35-45.***
  - Jesus had returned 'home' which would have been Peter's house in Capernaum where Jesus was staying.
- ***Since fame about Jesus had undoubtedly spread across the region, many people flooded Peter's home yet again so that they could see Jesus.***

- I believe strongly, that verses 1-2 show us that the Church will be full when the Word is preached.

- ***Granted, many of these people were there to see Jesus for the wrong reasons. They wanted another miracle.***

- ***But, overtime as the influence of the Word of God increases in the NT Church, the Churches will be full because of the Word of God.***

- Acts 2:41 shows us that Peter preached from Joel and 3,000 people got saved.

- ***There are all kinds of reasons that people come to Church. But the reason that they will and should stay, is because of the Word being preached.***

- There are 2 things we need to look at in these verses about a Church that is full.

- ***Plenty of People. (V. 1-2a)***

- 'And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door.'
  - ***People hear that Jesus is there, and the place is packed out.***

- **When people know that the presence of God is at a Church, they will flock to that Church.**
  - The scene that is painted for us in verses 1-2a, is one where even the door is jammed packed with people wanting to hear and to see Jesus.
  - *\*Word Study\**
    - The word ‘crowds’ is used over and over again in Mark’s Gospel. Here in verse 2a, the ESV translates it to ‘many’. It comes from the greek term **‘Polus’** πολὺς which occurs 416 times in the NT and means *great in magnitude or quantity. Much and large.*
  - While Mark doesn’t give us a specific number of how many people were crammed into the house, scholar Hans F. Bayer stated **‘at the most, fifty people may find room in the house; the other listeners must do so from the outside.’**
    - Jesus knows and is well aware that many of them are there because they want to see what Jesus is going to do next and what Jesus can even do for them.
      - *But, even with this group of people, Jesus shows what He is going to prioritize.*
- Jesus is not enamored or swayed with the presence of the crowd. He knows His mission, so He’s going to preach the Word.
  - **Preaching Prioritized. (V. 2b)**
    - ‘And he was preaching the word to them.’
    - *\*Word Study\**
      - The english for ‘Word’ comes from the greek term **‘Logos’** λόγος which occurs **330 times in the NT.**
    - So we know that Jesus was preaching ‘the Word’, but what exactly was He preaching?
      - *The NT scriptures didn’t exist yet, so what was Jesus preaching from?*
    - *To say that Jesus preached the Word meant that He proclaimed and expounded on the scriptures, which at that time, are what we know as the Old Testament.*
      - Even for Jesus the scriptures were enough in His preaching!
        - **Many of our Churches aren’t full today because people are so sick and tired of pulpits proclaiming Politics, propaganda, pettiness, opinions, and self driven agendas.**
  - *People don’t want to go to Church and hear the opinions of one man. They desire, deep down, to go to a Church where the Truth of God is proclaimed. Unashamedly.*

- Now we don't know which OT text Jesus is preaching from here, but we know based on verse 5 of chapter 2 and later verse 17 in chapter 2, that Jesus was calling sinners to repentance.
  - ***Showing His authority to be able to forgive sinners.***
- James Edwards did a great job in explaining the significance of the word 'Logos' in the greek text: ***'More than any other expression in early Christianity, 'the Word' defines the essence of Jesus' ministry. Especially in Mark, who seldom records the content of Jesus' teaching, it may mistakenly be assumed that the amazement of the crowds is owing to spellbinding miracles and wonders.'***
  - ***The preaching of the Word is more than enough for our pulpits today.***
- The first thing we've seen, is that a Church that is a HOME for the HURTING will be full. Secondly...

**Point 2: *The Church Will Fulfill Needs. (V. 3-5)***

- 'And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.<sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

- ***A Church that is a home for the Hurting, will not be afraid to meet the needs of its community.***
  - In these verses we are told that 'they' came and brought this man that needed the healing of Jesus, to Jesus.
    - ***While we don't know the identity of 'they', we do know that they have faith that Jesus can heal this man.***
    - Which is why they wanted to get past this crowd, and meet these needs.
      - ***I don't know if these men were believers, but they had faith in God. Enough faith to get their friend through a roof in an overcrowded home.***
  - As the local Church, we may not always know the 'how' to fulfill needs, but we should always seek the Lord in faith, to help us go about that.
    - ***I believe there are 2 types of needs that the Church should be focused on fulfilling.***
- ***Physical Needs. (V. 3-4)***
  - 'And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.<sup>4</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.'

- *Yet again, these verses show us how **BIG** this crowd really was.*
  - Because the crowd was big, these men who had faith that Jesus could heal this man, grab a corner, and take it up to the roof.
- ***Since our homes are not structured in this way, we need to look at the context and construct of homes in this time period.***
  - These roofs were usually always accessible by outside stone staircases and they were usually flat roofs.
  - *The roof was supported by the beams that rested on the exterior walls of the house. The beams would be cross-hatched by smaller poles and sticks, and that would be covered with mud.*
    - The fact it was covered with Mud, is the reason as to why the greek verb for ‘digging’ is used in verse 4 but is translated to ‘removed’ in the ESV.
- *I’m sure when this occurred that the people were covered in dirt and their mouths dropped wide open.*
  - Notice that though Peter is the one giving this information to Mark to write down, there is no evidence of Peter’s

expression on his own roof being destroyed at his home in Capernaum.

- *When we fill the physical needs of others, we shouldn’t be worried about what we lose in the process. Even if it’s a roof.*
- One reason that the Church today isn’t as interested in filling physical needs as we should be, is because we are more afraid of what we could lose, then what the Kingdom of God could gain.
- *The Church becomes a home for the hurting when we meet physical needs to be able to hopefully meet spiritual needs.*
  - So, these men each grabbed a corner and lowered their friend down with ropes (most likely) so that he could have an encounter with Jesus.
- What corners are you grabbing to meet the physical needs of those around you.
- *Spiritual Needs. (V. 5)*
  - ‘And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”’
  - *While everyone in the tiny house knew that the paralytic had physical needs, Jesus focuses on the deeper and more dire need, the spiritual.*
  - *There’s no doubt that the words Jesus said to the paralytic man stunned the entire room.*

- These words show that Jesus had authority to forgive sins.
      - The first word in what Jesus said to this man gives us this clue.
- *\*Word Study\**
  - The word ‘son’ comes from the greek word **‘Teknon’** τέκνον *which is translated as son.*
  - In the **99** times this word appears in the Greek NT, it often means endearment or affection. But in this context, it primarily is a term of a superior who acts with authority as well as benevolence.
    - *This simple word in the greek text doesn’t just symbolize Jesus’ love for this man, but His authority to act out this love.*
- *Yes, this man had some serious physical needs. He couldn’t walk, but, this paralytic has a more serious problem that each of us suffer from.*
  - JM said *‘Sinful mankind has no greater need than forgiveness. It is the only means for reconciliation to God, bringing blessing in this life and eternal life in the next.’*
- Matthew 1:21 is a reminder of why Jesus even came to this earth!
  - ‘She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’
  - *Most people at this time were coming to Jesus because of a need that they didn’t know they had. The need for forgiveness from the deadliest disease known to man, sin.*
    - While the Church should be meeting physical needs, we should never let that take priority over meeting spiritual needs.
  - *It’s common in Churches to only focus on what we can see with our eyes. This is the physical. But, we need to remember that the spiritual will last forever. The physical is temporary.*
    - This passage shows us that Jesus has the power to forgive sins.
    - As the local Church, we are at our best when we create an environment where people are convicted of their sin and Jesus can forgive them of that sin.
  - *We (the Church)aren’t a business that is obligated to be at your beckon call, meet every need you have, entertain you, fulfill each of your preferences and pay every bill, we’re a body of believers that is to help one another so that more and more people in Gaston SC and beyond can be forgiven by Christ Jesus.*



- The Church is at it's best when people yearn to come to Church to take care of their spiritual needs instead of find out the latest gossip.
- *How are you leading people to have their spiritual needs fulfilled at Church?*
  - Dr. Daniel Aiken said *Seeing the man's whole situation, Jesus lovingly looked past his surface need and met his deeper need; He looked past the man's immediate need and met his real need!*
- The Church can be a home for the hurting when it's full, fulfills needs, and thirdly...

**Point 3: *The Church Will Face Naysayers. (V. 6-7)***

- 'Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
  - *When the local Church is reaching people and has become a healthy home for the hurting, the Church will face negative naysayers.*
    - Some people that claim they have a relationship with the Lord will still go against God's people and leaders if it doesn't suit their fancy.
  - *Just because you don't like the method, doesn't mean that the message is all of a sudden wrong.*

- Naysayers will come from outside but also, inside the Church.
  - *Here, the religious leaders are 'inside' the Church so to speak, and sometimes, those are the ones that can be the most divisive.*
- I believe there's 1 important thing to point out about these pharisees.
- *Negative Onlookers. (V. 6-7)*
  - 'Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
  - *The scribes and religious leaders don't celebrate the fact that this man's sins had been forgiven, they are to busy looking to see what Jesus did wrong so that they can charge Him.*
    - Verse 7 reveals that they accuse Him of Blasphemy. Which by definition is speaking against God.
  - *Satan will try to damage a Church by creating a group of negative naysayers that will create division.*
    - *These negative Naysayers will try to attack the methods that the Body of Christ is using.*
      - As I've said many times, we should and can explore more methods so that more people may



hear the name of Jesus as long as we don't change the message.

- *These religious leaders didn't like Jesus' methods or message, but they especially didn't like the authority that He had.*
  - Naysayers will come from **INSIDE** and **OUTSIDE** the Church.
- *The phrase that the religious leaders said **Who can forgive sins but God alone?***
  - Comes from the first century Jews that held to the belief that God was the only one who could forgive sins.
  - So, they say He's blaspheming because they believe that Jesus is saying that He is God.
- Scholar Hans F. Bayer said *'The opponents of Jesus do not, however, consider the alternative, namely, that Jesus is indeed a member of the triune God, as suggested in various OT texts.'*
  - Psalm 110:1, Isaiah 9:6-7, Daniel 7:13-14, Micah 5:4, Zechariah 9:8-9 and Malachi 3:1 all suggest in the OT that Jesus was a member of the Triune God.
- *These religious leaders ignored this part of God's Word because it didn't fit their agenda.*
  - If the Church today is really going to be a home for the hurting like we're called to be, it's time for every single one of us to put our agendas away.

■ **Too many souls are dying and going to hell everyday for you to sit back and worry about pushing your agenda in the local Church.**

- This morning we've seen that the Church can be a home for the hurting when it's full, fulfilling needs, and facing naysayers. Lastly we see that a Church that is a home for the hurting will...

**Point 4: *The Church Will Follow Christ. (V. 8-12)***

- 'And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? **9** Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? **10** But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— **11** "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." **12** And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"
- *The Church that is successful in being a home for the hurting, will follow Christ, no matter the cost.*
  - Those that were there at Peter's house that day left praising God for what they saw as is stated in verse 12.
- **We should leave the Church praising God for what He does in this place every time we are**

**here. For He is worthy of our praise and admiration.**

- In these verses we see Jesus show His authority even more with the fact that He not only knows the paralytics sins, but He knows the hearts of the scribes.
- I believe there are **3** things that we find here that are important to point out.
- **Jesus Reads Minds. (V. 8)**
  - ‘And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?’
  - **Notice that verse 7 said that the religious leaders ‘questioned in their hearts’, not that they verbalized these concerns.**
    - **So Jesus shows them right there of His omniscience which is evidence of His deity.**
  - **I’m sure that the religious leaders had to be startled by this that Jesus literally called them out just based on their thoughts.**
    - Jesus is able to read their minds, but He also attempts to reason with them.
- **Jesus Reasons with them. (V. 9-10)**
  - ‘Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk?’ **10** But that you may know that

the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—’

- **Notice here, that Jesus does not argue with them on their basic theological premise.**
  - Which was that only God could forgive sins.
- **By Jesus' response here, He actually affirms that truth.**
  - Jesus knew and understood that these religious leaders were accusing Him of blasphemy. He knew they were mad because He was claiming to be God.
- **That was the whole point. Jesus claiming to be able to forgive sins was claiming His deity and place in the trinity.**
  - **Jesus still knows what they are thinking. It’s one thing to verbally say ‘Your sins are forgiven’, but it’s another to prove that you have that authority.**
- Jesus is about to do just that as He instructs the paralytic to get up and walk.
  - Showing that He really does have that kind of authority.
- I love what scholar James Edwards said **‘The scribes are no less dependent on Jesus than they the paralytic for the work of God, but their learning and status make them less aware of their need for it.’**

- Are you aware of your need for Jesus to make you whole and forgive you of your sins?
- **Jesus Resurrects this man. (V. 11-12)**
  - “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”
  - **The authority is shown when Jesus tells this man to get up and walk and that’s what He does.**
    - **Jesus shows that He has the victory over sickness and sin. He shows that He is God in human flesh.**
  - **Which is why the crowd enthusiastically shouts ‘we never saw anything like this.’**
    - **Because their never had been anyone like Jesus. He is the King.**
  - Do you know Him today?

**Conclusion:**

- I love the local Church dearly and desperately. The Church is the bride of Christ.
  - **As the day draws closer and closer of Christ return, I’m reminded that we are to be a Home for the hurting.**
    - **We as the Church should be so fired up on helping others and creating an environment in this place where**

**‘ANYONE’ can experience the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **In order for First Baptist Gaston to be more effective in reaching this goal, WE need to get out of the way, and let God have His way.**
- **If you’re wondering if a particular Church is a home for the hurting, I believe based on this passage, you will find 4 specific things:**
  - **Point 1: The Church Will be Full. (V. 1-2)**
  - **Point 2: The Church Will Fulfill Needs. (V. 3-5)**
  - **Point 3: The Church Will Face Naysayers. (V. 6-7)**
  - **Point 4: The Church Will Follow Christ. (V. 8-12)**