

Holy Desperation!

Mark 2:1–12, Matthew 9:2-8, Luke 5:18-29

We're looking at the Gospel of Mark. And we've been looking at the lives that are transformed by Jesus Christ. We're calling it "**Life-changing encounters with Jesus.**"

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to make a difference in your life in my life. He came to touch us and change us. No believe should receive Christ and then go on with the same old life that you always had. Jesus came to give you a new life. And he said that in John 10:10, "*I come that you might have life and that you might have it to its fullest, that you might have an abundant life.*" If you're not having an abundant life, the Lord needs to touch you again. You just need to ask him to do that in your life. So pray for that.

We are looking at the gospel of Mark. Mark wrote an unusual gospel. It's the shortest one. And it's all about pictures of people. It's not chronological and it's not theological. It is focused on Jesus, meeting people and Jesus touching their lives. And they're never the same. We're looking at 13 characters who were touched by Jesus. Their lives were transformed. There are actually 31 of these characters that have been touched by God. We're looking at another one this morning.

Turn with me to Mark chapter 2:1-12. And while you're finding that, uh, let me give you a little bit of background. Remember what happened?

Baptism

Jesus was baptized down in the Jordan River, near, uh, the area of Jerusalem. Then he traveled back up to Nazareth, where he preached and read from Isaiah 61 and declared that this was fulfilled in their ears this day. The refused to listen, rejected his claim, chased him out to a cliff and would have thrown him over but he escaped from them.

Read Isaiah 61:1-3

Nazareth

After this he left Nazareth, went over to Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee, a fishing town. There he called several men to follow him. Peter and Andrew, James and John. In a little while he will call Matthew the tax collector.

Capernaum on the Sabbath in the Synagogue

On the Sabbath he entered into the synagogue and they're in the synagogue, a demon possessed man, screams out and says, I know who you are. And Jesus says, "Shut up get out of here" and delivers the man from the demon. Everybody is astounded. No one has authority like this, but Jesus. So the word about him spread.

Peter's House Healing Mother-in-Law – Mark 1:29-31

After that they left the synagogue, went about 90 feet straight in front of the synagogue to the house of Simon, Peter and Peter, Andrew lived there. And we told you about that whole housing complex, how they had multiple homes together and a courtyard in the middle. Jesus encounters Peter's mother-in-law and finds that she's with a high fever. And he reaches down and touches her and heals her. And she is raised up to immediately minister to them.

That Evening, After Sunset – Mark 1:32-34

The word spreads even more, so, more and more people are hearing and more are coming every day for Jesus to touch them.

Next Morning in Prayer – Mark 1:35-39

The very next morning, Jesus gets up from Peter's house and sneaks out and goes to a solitary place to be alone with his heavenly father to get refocused and to hear the voice of the Lord and to know what he's supposed to do. The disciples find him later in the morning, he said, Lord, what are you doing? You didn't have breakfast yet. Lord, what are you doing? Everybody's looking for you, Lord Jesus, why aren't you doing, what are you supposed to do? Jesus says, "I've come to serve my father. And he gave me directions. I must preach all around this area." And so he left Capernaum and went out to preached in other areas and then circled back to Capernaum. We're not exactly sure where this event took place, but we suspect that it was again near Capernaum.

Journey through Galilee

Traveled through Galilee preaching in synagogues and driving out demons. – Mark 1:39

Meets the Lonely Leper – Mark -1:40-45

Jesus Stay outside in lonely places – Mark 1:45b

Mark 2:1-12 Jesus Heals Paralyzed Man

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since 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. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶Now 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?"

⁸Immediately 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? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' ¹⁰But 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." ¹²He 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!"

1. They Heard About Jesus – his reputation preceded him

How could you not hear about Jesus? No one works like him. News spreads by word of mouth, perhaps newspapers, over the back fence gossip, at the local pub, on the sea shore, around the dinner table. Consider all that Jesus did. Turned water into Wine John chapter two. It's not like present-day healing services of Oral Roberts or Katherine Khulman. No production. No stadium. No music.

Consider what Jesus healed! The demonized, the fevered, , the lepers, the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the epileptic, the bleeding, the crippled, withered hand, and even the dead! HE HEALED ALL THAT WERE SICK, EVERY DISEASE AND AFFLICTION. (Matthew 9:35)

2. They Knew Time Was Short – Jesus passed by, opportunity knocks

Jesus wasn't conduction crusades in arenas. He was moving from place to place. You had to pursue him. He wasn't pursuing you. He walked everywhere, sometime traveled across Sea of Galilee. People followed him. There were no busses to take you to the crusade. No taxis to get you there. You either walked or took a donkey cart to get where you last heard Jesus was. By the time you got there perhaps he was up and gone.

There was no published itinerary. You had to chase the Master. (The best place to find Jesus is at church, in the house of God, in the place of prayer. Where two or three are gathered in his name, he will be in the midst of them.") (Matthew 18:20)

3. Their Friend Had a Need – Helpless without helpers

Enter this young crippled boy (or man) If you were crippled or bed-ridden you couldn't get to Jesus. You needed help. You needed friends to take you to Jesus.

Pity the invalid that has no friends. *"A friend is born for adversity."* (Prov. 17:17) *"Two are better than one because they have good reward for their labor. If one fall the other picks him up...if someone prevails against him, two can withstand him. A threefold cord is not easily broken."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

The instruction of James 5:14-18 is the same. *"Is anyone sick among you? Let him **call for the elders**...to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another, that you may be healed."*

4. They Got Desperate – Risk of rejection, Break Through!

Imagine these boys, traveling a couple of miles carrying their friend on a stretcher. Not an easy task. Imagine their dilemma. The house was crowded right up to the doors. People standing around outside, couldn't get in. There was the outer entranceway, fenced in walls. Somebody came up with a desperate idea.

"Let's break through the roof! We came all this way and I'm not about to carry him back 2-3 miles." It's breaking and entering. What? Ruin someone's roof in order to get to Jesus? This was not a normal thought. This wasn't a common occurrence. In fact, we

never see it happen again. The very idea! *“Do we have any tools? Who is going to pay for the damages? What if we get arrested? We could go to jail. This might cost us a fortune!” – Who cares?! Our friend needs Jesus whatever it cost!*

5. Jesus Was the Answer – First deal with sin, then healing.

They finally get him lowered into the living room. Imagine the ruckus. Imagine the owner’s reaction (probably Peter and Andrew’s house.) Imagine the shock, the outrage, the dust, the falling debris, women screaming, men swearing at them, the shouting, and just the shock of it all. (Who is going to clean up this mess and repair the roof, and what if it rains?) But Jesus is smiling! – His is unflappable. He loves seeing this kind of holy desperation.

He’s got a plan. He adds a little more shock to the situation. **“Son, your sins are forgiven you!”** – WHAT!!! He can’t forgive sins! Who does he think he is? Only God can forgive sins. (This is the first that Jesus begins to teach them who he is. Later he calms the storm and the sea and the disciples ask, “Who is this that the wind and sea obey him?”

The greatest problem any man has is the problem of sin. Sin interrupts the flow of Jesus power. Remember Nazareth. He could do no mighty miracle because of their unbelief. So sin and unbelief have to be dealt with.

Only three things hinder your healing. 1) Unconfessed **Sin** 2) **Suspicion** that Jesus can’t or won’t 3) **Selfish** motives, just a consumer mentality.

When Jesus saw their faith, he healed the man. Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you’ or ‘Take up your bed and walk’?

“So that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins, I tell you son, get up, take up your mat and go home.” – Look at the SON OF MAN passages in Daniel 7:13-14. The Son of Man is a Messianic title.

Application:

How desperate are you to be touched by Jesus? How desperate a friend are you to bring your friend to Jesus? How much do you believe that Jesus cares and can heal all that are sick? This is communion Sunday.

It’s a time to come to the altar and lay that burden, that sin, the illness, weakness, infirmity on Jesus, or that problem no one can solve but Jesus.

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**,
coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

14 He was **given authority, glory and sovereign power**; all nations and peoples of every language **worshiped him**. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.