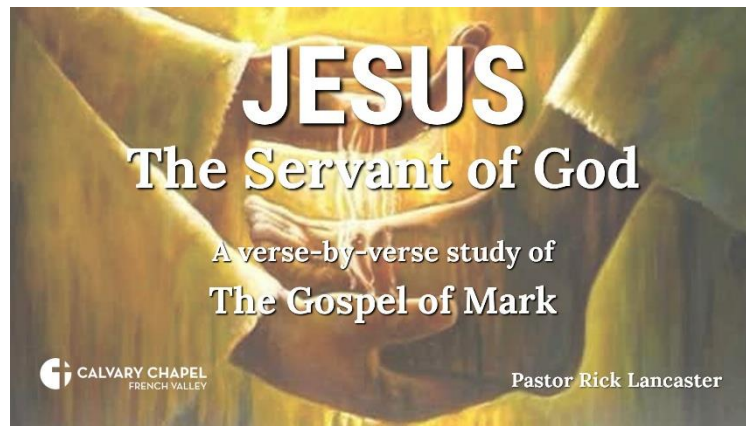




JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel of Forgiveness

Mark 2:1-12

Message #4

Sermon given on October 19, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Forgiveness

Mark 2:1-12

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 2**
- Today, we begin a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Forgiveness**
- When we pray, we come to God and typically, ask Him for the things we need or want.
- What if we are not coming in the right way?
- What if we are asking for the wrong things?
- Will God reject us? Will He ignore us? Will He give us what we want even if it is wrong?
- We are going to try to answer some of those questions this morning.
- Last time Jesus began His preaching ministry and was travelling all over but He had to stay out in the deserted places because people kept coming to Him for miracles.
- After a while He goes back to Capernaum.
- **Mark 2:1**
- This is probably Peter's house, where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.
- Word got out quickly that Jesus the healer has returned.
- **Mark 2:2**
- People came as soon as they heard.
- They probably wanted to see more miracles.
- Jesus took the opportunity to preach.
- Earlier Jesus said it was His purpose. **Mark 1:38**
- He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."
- He preached the word - the scriptures – the Old Testament.

- This reminds me of something the Apostle Paul said to Timothy. 2

Timothy 4:2

²**Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

- As a pastor/teacher I take this verse to heart.
- I should always be ready to talk to people about the Word of God.
- I also believe this is a word to anyone who loves Jesus.
- The word preach can also be translated proclaim or declare.
- Notice, the verse says, be ready.
- Are you ready to talk to people about Jesus?
- Are you ready to bring the word of God into your conversations with others?
- If you are not ready to do that, I believe Jesus would tell you to get ready.
- Get to know God better and better and get to know God Word well enough to talk to others about it.
- The best time to have started doing that was when you first got saved.
- The second-best time is right now!
- The scene then shifts to what is going on outside.
- **Mark 2:3**
- Four guys carrying a paralyzed man are trying to bring him to Jesus to be healed.
- But there is a problem.
- **Mark 2:4**
- Whenever possible try to put yourself into the account.
- Imagine sitting or standing there listening to Jesus, God in the flesh, preaching about the kingdom of God and expounding upon the Word.
- That would be the best sermon you have ever heard.
- Then there is a noise – someone is on the roof.
- And you can hear them digging and tearing away the roof and ceiling. And people are scattering away from the mess.
- Once the hole is big enough, a bed is lowered down in front of Jesus.
- How would Jesus respond to this interruption?
- **Mark 2:5**
- This is one of those accounts that I wish we had the video version.

- How did Jesus respond? Did He frown – was He surprised?
- Don't think so – I think it made Him smile.
- Notice – 'saw their faith' – the faith of all five men.
- Jesus responds in a way that might have surprised everyone – 'your sins are forgiven you.'
- That's not what they were there for; they brought the man to be healed of his paralysis.
- Jesus saw his real need.
- Common belief that disease is a judgment from God for sin.
- Job's friends kept trying to get him to confess the sin that caused all the bad things to happen in his life.
- Man's greatest need is not health, wealth, or fame.
- Man's greatest need is to be restored into a right relationship with God.
- Sin separates God's creation from Him.
- We were created to be in an intimate, communion fellowship with our loving Father in heaven.
- Jesus came to make a way to eliminate that separation – to make us one with God.
- He accomplished that work on the cross.
- Now everyone who believes in Christ and trusts in God is saved and restored into a right relationship with God.
- That was what that man needed.
- He also knew that he needed to be healed but he used him as a sermon illustration to test the hearts of His listeners.
- By telling the man his sins are forgiven, Jesus is saying the righteous penalty for sinning against God is erased.
- The religious people respond in the way He expected they would.
- **Mark 2:6-7**
- The scribes were religious experts in the Law of Moses.
- In their heart they accuse Jesus of blasphemy or slandering the character of God.
- By saying He has the authority to forgive sins, Jesus is saying He can do something only God can do. **Isaiah 43:25**

²⁵ **I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.**

- The Bible commands us to forgive one another.
- But that is not the same as what Jesus does here.
- When I forgive someone for sinning against me, it makes it possible to restore the relationship between us, but it doesn't take away the penalty of the sin against God.
- Only God can do that.
- When we repent to God of our sin, God takes away the penalty and restores us back into a right relationship with Him.
- As believers, Jesus took our penalty to the cross so when we go to God for forgiveness of the sins we continue to commit it is to restore the relationship to a clean and forgiven state.
- By doing this Jesus is saying He is equal to God.
- For a man to do that is blasphemy and the penalty is stoning, people hit with stones until you are dead.
- Jesus knows what they were thinking.

- **Mark 2:8-9**

- As far as the Jews were concerned both things were equally impossible for anyone but God.

- **Mark 2:10-12**

- 'Son of Man' is a term used in Daniel to refer to the Messiah, the Savior King the Jews were waiting for.
- Jesus used that title 83 times in the gospels referring to Himself.
- 'The word power there is the authority.
- Jesus had the authority to forgive sins.
- Also to judge sins. **John 5:26-27**

²⁶ **For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,** ²⁷ **and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.**

- Jesus is saying He is the Messiah, He is God.
- He says the healing proves it.
- The crippled man gets up immediately, picks up his bed and leaves.
- The healing is immediate and complete; he is completely whole.
- There are two main messages in this text.

- The most popular one is the faith of the four friends of the crippled man.
 - Their friend needed Jesus' help and they wouldn't be denied even when the crowd kept them from reaching Jesus.
 - They displayed great faith and love.
 - No names are given but we might name them
 - The first is compassion; he saw this man's need, and he cared enough to do something about it.
 - The second man is persistence – even though he was hindered, he didn't give up when it got hard.
 - With compassion and persistence was creativity.
 - He found a way to get to Jesus when there did not appear to be a way.
 - The fourth member of the team was sacrifice – he faced rejection, ridicule and the consequences of helping his friend.
 - Someone was going to have to pay to repair the roof.
 - The church needs stretcher-bearers.
 - People all around us need to be brought to Jesus. **Romans 5:6**
- ⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**
- When was last time you brought someone to Jesus?
 - It can be as easy as inviting them to church?
 - You may need compassion, persistence, creativity, and sacrifice.
 - The main message of text is forgiveness of sins.
 - Paralytic came to be healed in his body.
 - Jesus saw his real need – soul diseased by sin.
 - God puts higher value on soul than on the body. **Mark 8:36**
- ³⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**
- Soul diseased by sin is dead and cannot enter heaven.
 - That's a real problem for everyone. **Romans 3:23**
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- All of have the disease of sin.
 - Sin paralyzes – emotionally, relationally, sometimes physically – always spiritually.
 - Everyone has the same disease.

- And the consequence of this disease is separation from God who created us to be with Him forever. Romans 6:23a
- ²³ **For the wages of sin is death...**
- Eternally separated from God.
- All have same disease, and all need same cure. **Romans 6:23**
- ²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- Jesus is the cure – the only cure. **John 14:6**
- ⁶ **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**
- The healing we all need is forgiveness of our sins.
- Not just for salvation – but for freedom.
- Might be saved and still in bondage to some sin.
- It is paralyzing you – it is time to come to Jesus and let Him set you free. **John 8:36**
- ³⁶ **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**
- Most of you probably only need to come to Jesus to have Him wash the filth from your feet that clings to you from simply walking in this world.
- Come, ask Him to make you clean, and to restore you back into the intimate, communion fellowship God created you to walk with Him in.
- Every good thing that can come into your will come as you walk with Jesus.
- As we pray, ask Jesus to open your heart wide to receive His love.
- Ask Him to wash you clean and ask Him to help you walk with Him.
- And then ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be a stretcher-bearer, bringing others to Jesus.
- Ask Him to stir up compassion, persistence, creativity, and sacrifice.
- **Pray – Communion - Last Song**