

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM
& 10:30AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

February 2, 2025



"More Than Just a Miracle"

Mark 2:1-12 tells of a paralyzed man whose friends lowered him through a roof to reach Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus forgave the man's sins, shocking religious leaders. To prove His authority, He healed the man, who rose and walked. This passage reveals Jesus' power to heal both body and soul.

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-12 (NIV)

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

6 Now 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?"

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

Interesting facts about Mark 2:1-12:

1. Faith in Action – The paralyzed man's friends demonstrated extraordinary faith by breaking through the roof to bring him to Jesus, showing that true faith often requires persistence and bold action.

2. Jesus' Priority – Before healing the man physically, Jesus first forgave his sins, emphasizing that spiritual healing is even more important than physical healing.

3. Challenging the Religious Leaders – The scribes were shocked when Jesus forgave sins because, according to Jewish law, only God could do that. Jesus' response subtly revealed His divine authority.

4. A House Packed with Seekers – The story takes place in Capernaum, which had become Jesus' home base. The crowd was so large that people couldn't even get near the door, showing Jesus' growing influence.

5. Symbolism of Rising and Walking – When Jesus told the man to "rise," it foreshadowed both spiritual renewal and His own resurrection, reinforcing the theme of new life through Christ.

6. The Role of the Roof – Traditional houses in that time had flat roofs made of mud, straw, and tiles, which could be removed. This detail highlights the determination and ingenuity of the man's friends.

7. Jesus' Authority Confirmed – By physically healing the man, Jesus validated His claim to divine authority, proving that He had the power to forgive sins.

This passage powerfully demonstrates faith, forgiveness, and Jesus' divine nature. First Resurrection Witnesses:



Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader: Come, all who seek healing and hope, for Christ is in our midst!

Congregation: We come with faith, knowing that Jesus has the power to heal and forgive.

Leader: When obstacles block our way, let us press on with boldness and trust.

Congregation: Like the friends who carried the paralyzed man, we will not be stopped in our journey to Jesus.

Leader: Jesus sees our faith and welcomes us with mercy and grace.

Congregation: We rejoice in the One who forgives, restores, and makes all things new!

Leader: Rise up in faith! Your sins are forgiven, and new life is before you.

Congregation: We praise the Lord, who brings healing to our souls and strength to our bodies! Amen.

Children's Message

***All hail the power of Jesus name verses 1 through 4, p.154 UMC Hymnal**

Scripture Reading: Mark 2:1-12

Sermon: More Than Just a Miracle

Offertory - **UMC Choir and Bailey Myers singing --Jesus loves me**

*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

***Something Beautiful/ sing 2x, p.394 UMC Hymnal**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor:

"Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven."

Congregation:

"Glory to God. Amen."

Pastor:

"The Lord be with you."

Congregation:

"And also with you."

Pastor:

"Lift up your hearts."

Congregation:

"We lift them up to the Lord."

Pastor:

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Congregation:

"It is right to give our thanks and praise."

Pastor:

"It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks for your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, who took upon himself our sin and suffering, offering us new life and hope."

"On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: 'Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us."

Communion

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Savior again to thy dear name, p.663 UMC Hymnal

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

February 8 9-10am - Men's Prayer Meeting at the church.

February 8 - 3-5 Paint Day - Come join us for another afternoon of fellowship and painting, cost is \$25.00. We have plenty of open slots if you would like to join us.

February 9 Souper Bowl Can Food Drive ends this Sunday.

February 9 -10am February Birthday Celebration

February 9 - 11am Methodism 101 with Pastor Katie

February 16 - Potluck after church has been CANCELLED

February 18 - April 8th every Tuesday from 7-8pm Online Bible Study exploring Liz Curtis Higgs' bestselling book, Bad Girls of the Bible.

February 22 - Community Movie Night

March 2 - Holy Communion

March 8 - 9-10am - Men's Prayer Meeting at the church.

March 9 - Birthday Celebration with Pancake Breakfast

March 9 - 12:30 Community Vacation Bible School Meeting. Vacation Bible School will be held this year on Sunday, June 22 - Thursday, June 26th.

March 13 - 7pm Administrative Council Meeting

Prayer Requests:

Don Perkins & Carol Waple requests prayers for George Willingham

The Families of Howard Graham & Doris Branch request prayers on the passing of Cliff Graham

The Dinsmore Family request prayers for Donnie Kolb is recovering from surgery last week

Prayers for Debra Rippeon on her health issues

Prayers for Terry Oland recovery in hospital after heart attack.

Mark 2:1-12 Fun Challenge!

1. **Where was Jesus teaching when the paralyzed man was brought to Him?** A) The synagogue B) A house in Capernaum C) The Temple in Jerusalem D) On a boat
2. **How did the friends get the paralyzed man to Jesus?** A) Pushed through the crowd B) Sent a message to Jesus C) Lowered him through the roof D) Carried him on their shoulders
3. **What was the first thing Jesus said to the paralyzed man?** A) "Pick up your mat and walk." B) "Your sins are forgiven." C) "Have faith, my child." D) "Who brought you here?"
4. **Why were the scribes upset with Jesus?** A) He broke the Sabbath B) He healed someone without asking them C) He claimed to forgive sins D) He taught without their permission
5. **What happened after Jesus told the man to get up?** A) He hesitated, unsure what to do B) He got up, took his mat, and walked out C) He asked Jesus for more proof D) The crowd carried him out in celebration

Bonus Challenge: Fill in the Blank

Jesus saw the friends' _____ and responded to their determination.

The religious leaders thought, "**Who can forgive sins but _____ alone?**"

Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

Mark 2:1-12 teaches us the power of faith, persistence, and Jesus' authority to forgive sins. The paralyzed man's friends refused to let obstacles keep them from bringing him to Jesus, showing us that true faith takes action. Jesus first forgave the man's sins before healing his body, revealing that our greatest need is spiritual restoration. The scribes doubted, but Jesus proved His authority by both forgiving and healing. This passage challenges us: Are we willing to break through barriers—doubt, fear, or circumstances—to bring ourselves and others closer to Christ? And do we trust that He has the power to heal not just our bodies but our souls? Let us be bold in our faith, knowing that in Christ, we find both forgiveness and new life.

Application:

1. Be a Faithful Friend – Just as the paralyzed man's friends went to great lengths to bring him to Jesus, look for ways to support and uplift those in need. Pray for a friend, offer encouragement, or invite someone to church. Who in your life needs to be carried in prayer or action this week?
2. Remove Obstacles to Jesus – The crowd and the roof were barriers, but faith found a way. Identify what might be blocking your connection with Christ—busyness, doubt, distractions—and take a step to overcome it. Set aside intentional time each day to seek Him in prayer, scripture, or worship.
3. Trust in Jesus' Power to Forgive and Heal – The paralyzed man didn't just receive physical healing; he was forgiven. This week, reflect on areas in your life where you need Jesus' grace. Ask for His forgiveness, and extend that same grace to someone else. Is there a grudge, hurt, or guilt that you need to let go of?

Conclusion:

Mark 2:1-12 reminds us that faith moves us beyond obstacles, Jesus sees our hearts, and true healing comes through His forgiveness. The paralyzed man's friends didn't let barriers stop them from bringing him to Christ, and Jesus responded with both grace and power. The scribes doubted, but Jesus proved that He alone has authority to forgive sins and transform lives. This passage challenges us to be bold in our faith, to bring others to Jesus, and to trust that He can heal us in ways deeper than we imagine. May we walk forward, not just physically but spiritually renewed, carrying the joy of His mercy and grace.