

SERMON TRANSCRIPT



May 22, 2022

"The Miracle You Can't See"

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Hey, we're going to study the Bible today. We've been studying the book of Mark and last week we finished chapter one of Mark. It took us an entire month, but we did it right because we are really serious about getting through this. So, we're in Mark we're in Mark chapter two today and we're not gonna we're gonna fool around we're gonna try to get us through this and I'll try not to take too much of your time today but we wanna really focus on what Jesus says. Mark chapter two verse 1.

God I pray in Jesus name God that you would uh help us through the power of your holy spirit to understand this apply this passage to our life from the book of Mark God this story that we saw our youth do up here on stage God make this real to us and give us some truths that we can take out of here and apply it to our life so that when we leave here we're more like Jesus when we left them when we showed up and God we surrender this to you. You're our God we're your people in Jesus' name amen

Here's what it says, if you've got a Bible you can turn to it says a few days later when Jesus again entered Capernaum the people heard that he had come home. That's kind of weird, isn't it? How many of you thought that Jesus home was Nazareth? Yeah, it's okay to say that everybody whenever you say hey where's Jesus' home, you say Nazareth. Well, he was born in Bethlehem and then he grew up in Nazareth but he's just like the rest of us. A lot of us you know I didn't I grew up in East Peoria but now I live here so I don't call East Peoria home, I call this home, and this is kind of his home base. This is where Jesus, his center of ministry. So, he's gone off remember he did a bunch of miracles here, then he went off and he did some preaching and he's come back it's just a few days later after he's done it. He's come back and this is his home base.

Wouldn't you think this? I always thought this was kind of weird um you would think that Jesus' hometown like his home place that would be the most Christian of all the places, wouldn't you? Think like now you'd go to Capernaum and say well the most Christian place is the place where Jesus was home based right? Like Billy Graham's headquarters was in Minneapolis, Minnesota, right? So you're like that should be like a really Christian place. Capernaum was a nightmare if you read Jesus actually talks about it in Matthew chapter 11, we'll throw it up on the screen. This is what he says about Capernaum this is his hometown. This is where he's uh his base for ministry it says, and you Capernaum will you be lifted to heaven no you will go down to hades for if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom it would have remained to this day but I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.

That's saying something right? They saw all these miracles in in Capernaum and it didn't do anything for him. If you go there now remember that picture I showed you a few weeks ago of the ruins of Peter's house and then there's where the synagogue was that's about it that's about the town right there's not much there it's just it's nothing it's a nightmare and so anyway it goes on it says they gathered in such numbers that there was no room left not even outside the door and he preached the word to them.

So, he's not in the purpose here of having a healing service he's got all these people. He's not out in the street because if he was out in the street everybody'd be coming bringing all their sick people right? So, He's not doing that it's not a street performance. He's in a house he's having a home bible study and people hear that he's there and they start coming to this home Bible study. I don't know how many of you had a home bible study where it just people kept coming and kept coming and then all of a sudden, the door is blocked and now there's people outside and it says here it says there was not even outside the door there's not even room outside the door.

Imagine that on a Sunday right? You got so many people in here that there's people outside the door and going into the park and they're like there's not even room by the door and that's what's going on here people are going crazy for Jesus and they're going crazy for him because he's preaching the word. He's preaching the word of God. That is His purpose, to preach God's word. It's not about healing it's not about miracles. It's not about making blind people see. He does all that but that's not his primary job he's not having a healing service where all of a sudden, he'll pop up every once in a while, and preach.

See that tends to be the ministry of church that's the way we tend to do churches we have big events that have all kinds of stuff to do and then in the activity we'll preach real quick right? That's not what Jesus does. For Jesus, the event is the preaching and in the middle of the preaching somebody's going to show up and need a healing and he'll flip the script a little bit and he'll say up we're going to do this right what is primary what's primary is teaching the word of God.

As churches what's primary for us to do is not all this other stuff but preaching God's word that has to be number one right? That's God's number one. That's Jesus number one here and so it says some men came bringing to him a paralyzed man carried by four of them, so I don't know how much this guy weighed but he uh probably 120 pounds I'm guessing um and it's not going to be an easy lift because they're carrying them across town. It's not like they just you know they're not dragging him. They have to carry this guy it you're not hard have you ever tried to carry somebody have you ever tried to carry somebody like and I'm talking just like dead lift them? Even somebody that weighs like 50 pounds is heavy to carry if you're dead lifting them that way and we don't know how big this guy is he's obviously an adult and they've got to carry this guy in and so they grab him and it says it takes four of them to do it uncomfortably so they can go the distance and they're there because the word is still out that Jesus is healing people he's having a teaching meeting he's teaching about the kingdom of God but people are coming because this word's still out he can heal people and they can't get that to go away

Why would you bring somebody to Jesus? Why would you do that? These guys obviously have some faith. They have to have faith because if you didn't believe that Jesus could heal your buddy if you didn't believe Jesus could heal him you're not going to go and you're not going to grab him put him on a bed or put him on a mat lift him up carry him across town go to all the trouble of finding out that it's blocked you can't get in there then come up with a really harebrained idea let's like go on the roof that's a great idea let's go on the roof you know what let's destroy this guy's roof let's chop through it let's take the tiles off let's lower the guy you don't do that if you're like I wonder if he would ever heal him oh I wonder if he would do that here's the other thing I see here you see a guy who can't go there himself can this guy get to Jesus on his own no he can't get there on his own you know that most people that you want to come to Jesus they can't get there on their own

They can't get there on their own they can't get to Jesus they've got either spiritual hang-ups they've got some kind of mental hang-ups they've got experiences in their life that keep them they've been taught certain things that keep them there's no way they're afraid of this place they're afraid of coming near Jesus they don't want to hear it they're offended by there's something that keeps them from going there the only way that they will ever come to Jesus is if their friends come alongside him pick them up and take them to Jesus

The only way your friend is ever going to come to know Jesus is if you pick up and take him and so the question is why don't you do that why don't we do that

We don't do it I would say because we don't believe that Jesus will make a difference if we really believe that that Jesus is going to when we get him there when we drop him down the ceiling when we bring this person to church something is going to happen that's going to change this person if we don't believe that will happen we won't do it the only reason these people picked up and brought this guy is because they really believed that Jesus was going to heal this guy Jesus was going to change this guy's life and so this is a question do we really

believe as we walk around and we see friends we got friends that don't know Jesus and friends that don't have relationships do we really believe that if we were to bring them to Jesus we were to introduce them to Jesus whether that means just sitting down with them telling about Jesus or whether that means bringing the church or whatever do we really believe that God would do something in that person's life do we believe that.

And if we don't then we won't do anything but if we do I believe we will be compelled like these four men to go to extraordinary lengths to bring our friends to know Jesus. it says here it says since they could not get him to Jesus verse 4 they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd this here's the problem when you try to bring somebody to Jesus there is a barrier there's always some kind of barrier you're trying to bring somebody you know what I want to bring my I want my friend to know Jesus I'm going to bring my friend to Jesus and you get close and the next thing you know the door is shut it is blocked usually by people it's usually by people that's something somebody said it's something somebody's done it's relatives it there's something that's gonna keep that person because people block.

And so they come here and it says since they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd they made an opening in the roof this is funny this is funny right above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on all right if you look at the book of Matthew chapter 11 or a chapter 5 verse 19 it's the same story but it's told a little bit different way but it's the same story the same account and in there it says that they lowered him through the tiles so that gives you an idea of kind of what the roof is like it's like flat, but it's got like some tiles that are up there and they pry these off that wasn't completely unusual to go up and pry a roof off if somebody passed away and they had a coffin they would usually take them on the roof and they would lower the coffin into the house and then people would have visitation they would walk through the house they would mourn they would wail they would do that and then they would remove it that way so it's not like this never ever happened but remember, this is a preaching service and this is this is he's teaching.

I've taught a lot and I've had distractions okay I've had babies crying right I've had somebody I'm trying to think of the service there was somebody who uh who like passed out in a service one time that's a distraction right if somebody like falls over and they call the ambulance in and they're around and they're like they're like clear that's a distraction mid-service right you're like you know I don't know um stuff happens though and it's a distraction another one that's a big distraction I've never had this personally happen to me is somebody goes on the roof and cuts a hole in it mid-service you're like wait a second right and you look up and there's like these four guys there and they're looking down they're like big grins on their face they're looking at you and you're like what in the world, you know I was just getting to the good part and now you're doing this kind of thing

You're going to meet obstacles you're going to meet obstacles and once you come to a distraction like that there's different ways you can look at distractions like that you can say bye this is a nightmare this has ruined the whole service or you can do what Jesus does and recognize that oftentimes the best things that happen in your church service is when you put together the script we've got one here for the youth service so we all know what's going on it says here Way maker and then slideshow and then presentation and Kaden's gonna pray and all it's writing a list here but what if somebody cuts a roof hole in a roof mid-service you're like man you ruined the whole service no no the best times is when God shows up and something crazy happens and all of a sudden you're talking and people start crying or people start weeping or the spirit moves somewhere and all of a sudden somebody is just affected by something that's said or something happens those are the best and I think churches need to be willing to flip the switch they need to be willing to accept these distractions that God brings into their to their church right we need to be able to accept that and say God we have a plan but we're open to you doing something else our plan is we're going to do this but if you want to do something else you know what they open the ceiling we're cool we're cool with that do it whatever you want

It's kind of crazy it's kind of crazy and so these guys are showing incredible faith aren't they? Show up they've dragged this guy a long ways they really believe this they get there and there's this barrier there's this crowd they can't get to Jesus they can't get their friend to Jesus and so what are they going to do and so they show real faith I think in three ways the first way they show real faith is that real faith does what is difficult right if you if you have faith but as soon as something hard shows up something difficult shows up in your life all of a sudden you just give up and so they could have went to the house and they're dragging their friend along and they get them there and then all of a sudden they get to this crowd like oh you know what too many people you know what buddy you're just gonna have to be a paralytic because there's just too many people you're just gonna you're in trouble or they get there and they say you know what oh you know what we didn't know we didn't get the memo it's not a it's not a healing service it's a preaching service he's just preaching today so well there you go not going to be any kind of healing for you today there's a lot of things that could have happened oh they get there and they go boy dude you know what I hurt my back yesterday and I just don't think I can carry it all kinds of excuses but when you have faith you do hard stuff because you believe God's gonna show up and do something so you're willing to you're willing to put all of your effort in not because you're going to accomplish it but you're putting all your effort in because you know that God is going to do something great and it's worth it to put all that effort in knowing what God's gonna do and believing that God's gonna make a difference so the first thing is that real faith does what's difficult

The second thing is real faith colors outside of the lines real faith shows up to the service real face shows up to the things and all of a sudden the roof opens up and there's guys up there and you're willing to move you're willing to change real faith isn't limited by the door real faith doesn't come to the door and say well it's closed real faith says well how else can we accomplish this huh see I think one of the things that keeps us as churches from being as effective as we can is because of the door there's a million ways to get into the church there's a million ways but we say oh but there's only one way you've got to go through that door over there well we've never gone through the roof before well we've never done that before we've never well we've never climbed through the window but well that would be really hard on the window you know what crash the thing get through the window bring people to Jesus you got to get them in right got to be willing to flip the switch what are some creative ways that we can go that's not through the door let's look for windows let's look for heating ducts let's look for all kinds of weird ways to do things for Jesus as long as we bring the message with us through the door through the roof or through we're in good shape we want to do that real faith also is willing to pay the price real faith is oh boy it's going to be too costly to do that you know we would take you up there but you know the contractors shingles are really expensive right now and labor's kind of high and you know I just don't have that kind of coin in my pocket I don't want to spend all that kind of money because we're going to have to repair this roof and it's going to cost too much so you're just going to have to stay paralyzed see real faith says it's worth it because God's gonna do something fantastic and I believe it so uh I'm gonna do what's difficult we're gonna be willing to color outside of the lines and we're gonna be willing to pay the price because that's what real faith does.

Verse 5 we're moving along good when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralyzed man son your sins are forgiven now that's a weird thing to say isn't it did he come to get his sins forgiven no he came to get healed right and we know that this guy has faith too the paralyzed guy has faith because Jesus isn't going to proclaim to somebody your sins are forgiven if they don't have faith right he doesn't go around with people that don't have any faith in him and say oh your sins are forgiven. he never does that so this guy's got faith his friends have faith and they come to Jesus and it says when Jesus saw their faith isn't that a weird way to say it he saw their faith it doesn't say he felt their faith

see here faith is linked with action here's what faith looks like he sees it right he sees faith Jesus sees their faith because he looks up and he sees four guys on a roof looking down saying look what we did we believe in you right we believe that's what faith looks like hey we ripped a hole in the roof yeah you have faith all right I can see it plainly right you have a lot of faith and they have faith because when you lower a guy down from the roof they're not expecting to have to pull him back up right they're like no he's going to walk out because we're not lowering him down if we think we're going to have to pull him back up right there they're doing their thing so they saw the faith is not feeling here he doesn't see feeling it doesn't it's not knowing faith is action faith is doing something faith is bringing somebody so we say do you have faith.

Bible asks do you have faith I ask do you have faith look the only way you know that the only way I know that I have faith the only way you can know that you have faith is by what you do you look at how do I how do I know that I love God I keep his commands right the bible says if you love me Jesus said if you love me you'll keep my command it's by what you do we don't even know ourself we don't even understand our inside and we know by what we see we see our faith well yeah I have faith that Jesus can do something God that's why I brought him that's why I brought this person to Jesus

So looking down from the roof on the roof these guys though they're up there I can just imagine these guys they're up on the roof and they're looking down at Jesus and they've just brought their friend to be healed and Jesus looks at their friend and he says your sins are forgiven and they're like for crying out loud that's not why we brought Jesus here we didn't bring him here to have our sins forgiven we brought him here to heal him Jesus then you're supposed to heal the guy think of how disappointed they are when Jesus says your sins are forgiven they're like come on man we don't care about it since forgiving that's not why we came here we came do some healing don't do any healing we had to be frustrated but that's not how Jesus works Jesus always addresses the greater need which is more important that you are healed of your with your legs or that you're forgiven I mean Jesus puts it in other ways it better for you to walk into hell with two legs oh good you healed my legs great now I can walk into hell right that's not how that doesn't do us any good and so it says now some teachers of the law were sitting there thinking to themselves why does this fellow talk like that he's blaspheming you can forgive sins who can forgive sins but God alone okay so you got some pharisaical scribes some legalistic cats and they're watching this and Jesus this ought to give them a clue right away Jesus knows what they're thinking

Now the only people I know that know what I'm thinking is Jesus and my wife because she'll tell me I know what you're thinking right it's like oh no she must be God how does she know that omnipotent she knows what I'm thinking that's scary but it goes on it says so the scribes they're right when they look at Jesus and Jesus says and he says your sins are forgiven and then they freak out about that and they say well what you're talking about Willis you can't be forgiven sins only God can forgive sins that's right for them to do because only God can forgive sins so if Jesus comes out and says your sins are forgiven he's saying that he's God therefore if he's not God he is mocking God or he is disrespecting God he's not irreverent to God he is doing what's called blasphemy okay that's called blasphemy is basically to speak uh it's to speak with contempt about God um to be defiant to be irreverent and if he's claiming saying oh I'm going to forgive your sins and he's not God that's a big deal. Now who would expect it to be God who is expecting this cat to be God and he's talking like God your sins are forgiven so it says immediately verse 8 immediately Jesus knew in their in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts right that ought to be a clue right and he said to them why are you thinking these things which is easier to say to the paralyzed man your sins are forgiven or to say get up take your mat and walk.

Okay, let's just think about that for a second which is easier to say notice it doesn't say which is easier to do right which is easier to do than say that it says which is easier to say now anybody I have zero healing powers okay I'll just tell you zero healing powers I can't heal people right but I can I could say your sins are forgiven right

how would you know if your sins are forgiven nobody's gonna know there's no way to verify if I say something there's no way for you to verify what if Jesus says your sins are forgiven you can't verify that he's like that's easy for you to say right anybody can say your sins are forgiven

Not anybody can take a guy who hasn't walked and tell him to get up and walk and walk away he says so listen the same reason I can forgive sins is the exact same reason why I can I can heal you because I'm God right that's what he's saying the exact same reason I can heal you is the exact same reason why I can forgive your sins now it's easier for me to say your sins are forgiven but I know that ain't going to impress you because anybody can say that that's easier to say so what I'm going to do is I'm going to heal this guy I'm going to heal this guy because that will prove that when I say your sins are forgiven I have the authority to do that and to say that I have the authority to forgive you of your sins and so that's what he does it's easier to say now both are easy for God to do both areas you forgot to do it's not like but this is so people see the things that God does the works he does when he heals people right it's all for confirmation to confirm who He is.

When he forgives us of our sins yes he can do that I can know that my sins are forgiven because my sins are in the in a person who has proved himself to be God by doing all these other things that are not easy so it's not just saying it's not just saying he's proving by what he does he says but I want you to know that the son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins so he said to the man I tell you get up take your mat and go home two miracles here we see two miracles uh he does the miracle that you can see right the miracle that you can see is the healing but he's only doing the miracle he that you can see so that you will know the miracle that you can't see happened that's why he's doing that.

How do you know? I think that's the point. There's invisible miracles in our lives this whole faith thing it's all invisible and it's all invisible this all trusting in Jesus it's all invisible and so how do you know?

How do you know your own heart? How do you know? Do I really trust Jesus? Do I not trust Jesus? Do I really have faith in Jesus or do I not? What's the physical miracle what's the physical attribute that I can look at that shows this?

And I'll tell you there's what we call in poker. I was talking to some folks the other night there's what we call a tell you ever play poker. Nobody wants to say they play poker because they're afraid they're going to go to hell right in church right, but you play poker. If you play poker there's a tell and you've got your sunglasses on because you don't want people to see your eyes and you don't want them to see where you're going you don't want to see if you're excited you got my picture? So, this is my favorite cartoon. This is the dogs that are playing poker, and everybody folds because they see the tail wagon because it's a big fold. They're like oh no he's got a good hand right. I love that so what happens is there's a tell for us in our life. How do you know how can I know how I really feel God thinks about me?

How can I know what I really think if I really have faith and here's the tell you're going to treat other people the way you believe God treats you okay so if I go around and there's other people and I'm judgmental toward them I'm like oh you're a really bad person and you know what you're not going to be forgiven for that because you're then I believe that that's the way God treats me if I think God is out if I treat people like I'm out to get you all the time then that means that I believe that God is always out to get me that's how I think God thinks about me

If I look at other people and I'm slow to forgive I'm not willing to forgive I'm not willing to let this go I'm not willing to I'm going to hold on to it I'm going to harbor it right it's because I believe that that's the way God treats me that God harbors that the God hasn't let go of these sins in my life and yes I've confessed him but he just I just can't get past it and so that's the way I treat other people we treat other people the way we feel God has treated us okay so if you want to know what is my faith like look at how you treat other people look at how you respond

to people look at how you talk to them look at that and say why is that so Jesus will say if you don't forgive your neighbor right then you won't be forgiven you know why that is it's not because there's a rule that says well you must you must forgive your neighbor it's because you have not truly been forgiven you have not understood forgiveness because if you understood that type of forgiveness from God it would it would change the way you act and respond to other people who have truly been forgiven and have let it go and have felt that release of everything that God has done they don't hold that like we see even in parables in Jesus life they don't hold that against other people later and say well now I'm going to treat you the opposite of the way we treat people the way God's treated us that's a tell right it's the tail's wagon right now I'm saying oh I see so some of you say well Dustin doesn't know what I think or Dustin doesn't know about what my heart is doesn't know how I think about God well kind of kind of I get a good clue. I get a good clue as we watch each other we get a good clue as we watch each other and we see how people respond to each other we get an idea of what their relationship with God is, how they feel about God, how they feel about forgiveness.

So, it says he got up in verse 12. he got up took his mat and walked out in full view of the mouth so everybody saw it this was not secret this amazed everyone and they praised God saying we have never seen anything like that why don't you guys come on up and you can get your get your stuff ready they've never seen anything like it you know why they never seen anything like it

Anybody got an idea why they didn't see it they'd never seen anything like this because they'd never seen God before there's only one God in the universe ever for all history and so there are some things that will be unique that you'll only see if God shows up and this is one of them nobody else could ever heal this guy nobody else could forgive his sins because there's only one way to God there's only one there's only one God that can do these things one God that can forgive us of our sins he is the way the truth and the life there's one there's only one and so this morning I want us to take everything that we've learned here today evaluating look at ourselves say what's the um the invisible miracle have I experienced the invisible miracle what's the visible one that would reveal take a good look at your life take a good look at that and then as we walk out of here I want you to take Jesus with you you've got a lot of friends that are out there there's a lot of friends that are at work um people that are uh your neighbors stuff like that here's the question do you believe or not that if you were to bring them to Jesus God would He do something?