



The Priority of King Jesus

Scripture: Mark 2:1-17
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Jesus didn't come simply to fix temporary problems. He came to deal with our deepest need and gather outsiders into His kingdom. In Gospel of Mark 2:1-17, we see a King who forgives sinners, restores lives, and moves toward broken people with compassion and grace.

The king has come with his priorities

Mark 2:1-5a, *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...*

We tend to elevate what hurts now, over what matters forever.

- Review your prayer list. Is it mostly asking God for physical help?
- We are a church that enters into relationships to intentionally help people follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, & join the mission of Jesus, so they can flourish!
- What does it mean to flourish? It means we are honoring God's wisdom for the abundant life he promised in these six categories: character, happiness, relationships, meaning, health, and finances. Faith in Jesus fuels each of these categories.
- If something is a priority to you, bring it to God in prayer, and surround yourself with friends who will bring you to Jesus when you can't or won't go to Him.

Mark 2:5b-10a, *5b... "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'?" 10a But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..."*

Jesus lovingly confronts our deepest problem before our most visible one.

- Why is forgiving sin the priority of Jesus?
- Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin deceives us (Hebrews 3:13). Sin enslaves us (John 8:34). Sin destroys relationships (James 4:1). Sin distorts our purpose (Romans 1:25). Sin spreads like poison (1 Corinthians 5:6). Sin leads to death (Romans 6:23).
- Jesus reconciles us (2 Corinthians 5:18). Jesus shows us truth (John 8:31-32). Jesus sets us free from slavery (John 8:36). Jesus brings peace (Ephesians 2:14). Jesus restores purpose (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus purifies us (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus gives eternal life (John 10:10).
- It's such a priority to Jesus that we are right with God that He paid a great cost:

1 Peter 1:18-19, *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ.*

- The "Lord, Liar, or Lunatic" argument, popularized by C. S. Lewis, says Jesus cannot simply be viewed as "just a good moral teacher." Jesus claimed authority only God has—such as forgiving sins, judging the world, and being one with the Father. So either:
 - He was telling the truth and truly is Lord,
 - He knew it was false and was a liar,
 - or He believed it falsely and was a lunatic.
- Mark 2:10 is the first of fourteen times Jesus calls himself the "Son of Man". He is referencing that phrased as used in Daniel 7:13-14 where it is a messianic description.

Mark 2:10b-12, *10b 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!"*

When our current priorities match His eternal plan, he answers our prayers "yes".

- When he does, thank Him. When he doesn't, trust Him.
- "Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results." (Warren Wiersbe)

The King has come to gather outsiders

Mark 2:13-14, *13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.*

Jesus moves toward sinners, not away from them.

- He sees the worst of us (like how the Jews saw tax collectors).
- He sees us as lost people who need to be led and says, "follow me", We have a Good Shepherd as King: Matthew 9:36, When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- We haven't sinned so much that God can't forgive us and then use us.

Mark 2:15, *15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.*

He doesn't just call us to repentance, but to relationship.

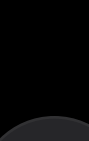
- "The Son of God did not come to men with demands and orders, but with forgiveness and meals...Jesus ate good food with bad people because He came to seek and save the lost." — Tim Chester, [A Meal with Jesus](#)
- Remember this when you take communion (you sharing a meal with Jesus), and when you read the Bible (Jesus talking to you), and when you pray (you talking with Jesus). But more than just remember this, replicate this with your meals.
- "Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God...Christians are called to dine with sinners but not sin with sinners." — Rosaria Butterfield, [The Gospel Comes with a House Key](#).
- Read the [B.L.E.S.S. Acronym](#) for reaching neighbors with meals.
- Join the [National Donut Day outreach](#) on 6/5/26 (or anytime during the month of June).

Mark 2:16-17, *16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Reaching sinners may hurt your reputation with man, but not with the Son of Man.

- Which groups of people are the modern day tax collectors that you dislike, but Jesus may be asking you to share a meal with?
- The question isn't whether you need help. The question is whether you realize how deep your need really is. And whether you will let Jesus do more than heal your symptoms, whether you will let Him forgive your sin and lead your life.
- Kings conquer by force. Jesus conquers by forgiveness. Kings take lives. Jesus gives His life so you can have eternal life. Will you put your trust in Him today?

I Put My Trust in Jesus Today



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