

Mark 05

“Perspective”

Mark 2:1-12

Introduction

- Perspective is the way we view things around us and experiences that we have
 - And its important to have the right perspective, without we can be deceived

Picture #1 - This little girl looks to be holding the sun

Picture #2 - Or holding up her friend

Picture #3 – This is my favorite flavor of ice-cream too

- very low in calories
 - you don't have to go running if this is all you eat

Picture #4 – Then, there is my favorite – that is just gross – anyway...

- Our perspective can change the way we view of things

The way we view an event changes our perspective

- Maybe you have heard about the college girl who wrote an email to her intensely strict parents

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just thought I'd drop you a note to clue you in on my plans. I've fallen in love with a guy named Jim. He quit high school after the 11th grade to get married. About a year ago he got a divorce because he realized he loved me and not her. We've been dating for two months now and plan on get married in the fall. Until then, I've decided to move into his apartment to help him kick his drug and alcohol addictions. We are going to make this work because I am also pregnant with Jim's baby. We have both quit school and are both currently out of work, but don't worry we are going to live on love! – (that's my favorite line)

- how many of you parents, this is your worse nightmare
 - oh man

Well the next day, after ignoring the 37 emails, text messages and phone calls from her parents, the daughter wrote back

Dear Mom and Dad,

Just to let you know everything I wrote to you yesterday was a lie. I am not pregnant, not getting married, still in school and don't even know a drug addict named Jim. However the truth is I got a C in French and failed my math class. But hey, that isn't the worse news you have heard this week is it? Just bringing some perspective!

Love you always

Perspective is important!!!! - Our perspective effects the decisions we make, the way we view the events of our lives, and even the direction our lives take

- and we see that in our text this morning here in Mark chapter 2
 - if you are taking notes and like outlines, we are going to see four perspectives this morning

Mark 2:1-12 – Perspective

#1 – The Perspective of Jesus – Mark 2:1-2

#2 – The Perspective of the Friends – Mark 2:3-5

#3 – The Perspective of the Scribes – Mark 2:6-12

#4 – The Perspective of the Paralytic – Mark 2:5

- let's consider these one at a time

Mark 2:1-12 – Perspective

#1 – The Perspective of Jesus – Mark 2:1-2

- as Jesus heads back to his home town, the home base of Capernaum
 - that village next to the sea of Galilee – as we rotate through some pictures of the ruins today and even what some scholars think it looked like in that day

As Jesus comes back to the home base, He is confronted by a problem, and that problem is the crowds

- now we need to understand why this was happening
 - one of the things that often doesn't make sense sometimes to people as they read through the gospels is why Jesus is constantly telling people not to tell others what He had done in healing them
- some of us think, man if I could restore the sight to the blind and help the lame walk and heal the lepers, I would want everyone to know
 - I would want to be famous

And so we wonder why Jesus is making these strange requests, as He did in the last verse of chapter one if you want to glance back there – He heals the leper, and says, "Don't tell anyone"

- but just like everyone else Jesus said that to, the leper didn't listen and began to tell everyone what had happened to him
 - and part of us think, good, the message of who Jesus is needs to get out, these guys disobeyed the Word of God and it seemed to work out for the best

But what I want to show you is whenever we disregard the Word of God, as unnecessary as His word seems to us in our superior intellect, oh Lord, you told me to avoid this and do that, but let me give the benefit of my insight to how life works - friends it never works out for the best

- I personally I believe Jesus didn't want people sharing the works of healing He was doing because He wanted to avoid the circus atmosphere that sometime can follow a healing ministry

A few first century historians record that the crowds that would gather around Jesus would sometimes number above 20,000 at a time

- Now to put that in perspective that is the size of the biggest church in America, all gathered around one man at one time with no sound system, no deacons or crowd control
 - Just 12 disciples who spend most of Jesus' ministry walking around in a continually, "dun, dun dun da"
- Most of the crowd that would gather didn't really care about His message, they didn't want to have a relationship with Him, they wanted to be touched and healed
 - And so this absolutely at times hindered the ministry and at the very least constantly challenged Jesus in His desire to reach the people not with just temporary relief, but eternal change and significance

- And we see this in our text today, oh what Jesus had to face, from His perspective, it's early in the ministry, so the crowds weren't as large as they would be, but none the less, Jesus is trying to have a home fellowship, to pour into His disciples
 - And the crowd is so large, they can't fit in the house
 - From Jesus' perspective, the leper's ignoring of His Word to him, didn't work out for the best

The lesson for you and me should be obvious

- God tells us things, gives us commands and decrees
 - And there is always this part of us that thinks, is that really important? It is really serious that I keep these things or is this just a suggestion
- Friends, here me on this, it never works out good when we decide to ignore the Word of God

That is true, every time, in every way, in every situation

- He tried to tell people not to tell anyone but they wouldn't listen
 - So His ability to minister was hindered
- I don't want that – I don't want to hinder what the Spirit of God wants to do in my life, because I am ignoring the Word of God
 - So I think it is important that from time to time in our lives, we take inventory
 - God is something You are telling me to do that I am ignoring
 - Is there something You are telling me to avoid, that I am still into
 - Lord I don't want You to be hindered to work in my life

It is important friends

- we know, we understand that purity and walking with God doesn't gain us reward points in heaven
 - God's love for us is not based on our performance
 - We are not blessed because of obedience, not in the sense of earning His blessing
 - But I do believe we can hinder the blessing, we can hinder what God wants to do because we just like these in the first century ignored the Word of God to us

Well from Jesus' perspective, He had to deal with the crowds, but did you notice what He did with them?

- Right there, verse 2 - He taught them the Word
 - Why do we put such an emphasis on teaching here? – I have people in my life say to me, oh you Calvary guys "you guys know its not God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Bible right" – thank you, I'm aware of Holy Spirit

But where did we find out about the Trinity, in the Word

- how do I know how to walk in the Power of the Spirit?
 - In the Word?
- How do I know who God the Father is and that Jesus is God the Son?
 - In the Word

And when we gather together as a church, as we have some quiet time in the morning, we need to pray, we need to worship, but we also need to get in the Word

- why?? – because Jesus did
 - He sees a large crowd and says, I know what I am going to do – I am going to preach the Word
- To me there is nothing wrong with drawing a crowd, but you better do something productive with them – and the most productive thing we can do is study the Word – to get this book into your heart and mind
 - Because it is the Word that will not return void, it is the Word that hidden in my heart will help me not to sin against Him
 - It's the Word, it's the Word, it's the Word! – we must continually preach it, listen to it, read it and let it read us
- From Jesus' perspective, it was the best thing to do with the crowd
 - But Jesus' perspective isn't the only one in play here

Mark 2:1-12 – Perspective

#1 – The Perspective of Jesus – Mark 2:1-2

#2 – The Perspective of the Friends – Mark 2:3-5

- Next we have the perspective of these four friends of this paralytic man

They had heard about the power of Jesus, they had heard that there was nothing that He could not do, no disease or affliction that He could not cure

- And so the perspective of these four men were – We need to get our friend to Jesus!
 - We need to do whatever it takes for Jesus to touch and heal our friend
 - And I mean whatever!!!!

You see the story

- they come to the house and the crowds are so large, there wasn't going to be any getting to Jesus
 - but then one of them has an idea, let's go through the roof

Roof picture #1

- Now a typical Syrian roof of the time was constructed of timbers laid parallel to each other about two or three feet apart. Then crosswise over the timbers, sticks were laid close to one another forming the basic roof. Upon this was laid reeds, branches, and thistles. The whole thing was then overlayed by about a foot of dirt, packed down to resist water. There would often be a set of steps next to the house, and it was common to rest up on top of your house in the evening to catch the cool breezes
 - So these guys most likely, head up the steps and start digging through the roof

Roof picture #2, and #2a

- now just imagine being Jesus and you are teaching, and all of sudden you hear something above you, then pieces of dirt start falling in, chunks of branches
 - imagine being Peter, what are you doing to my mother in law's roof, she is not happy about us living here with her, I'm not happy living here with her and now her roof is getting damaged
 - this would have been an amazing seen

And I know those are the best pictures to give you a visual on what this must have been like, but there weren't any cameras back then

- I found this one though, really illustrates it well

Roof picture #3

- Isn't that amazing – from our new graphic artist

These friends lowered the paralytic man right in front of Jesus

- From their perspective, they were willing to do whatever it took to get him to Jesus

What a lesson for us – most of us would have said, oh my look at the crowds, why don't we come back tomorrow

- But these guys did whatever it took
 - And I was thinking are we willing to do whatever it takes to see people come to Jesus?
 - And don't just say "yes" because that is too easy to say, we are all for people being saved
- Its like – who is for 'cute puppies' – who says no to that? – No, down with puppies
 - No, we think they're cute
 - And we are for people getting saved
 - But are you really?
 - Are you really willing to do whatever it takes for people to meet Jesus

Are you willing to spend real significant time in prayer that God would break through people's hard hearts?

- what do you mean by significant time? Because you see I am really busy? – but I would do whatever it takes, I just don't have much time

Are you willing to spend a day fasting that there would be a spiritual breakthrough in a friend of yours?

- fasting, you mean like fasting internet for a day?

No I don't mean like fasting internet or facebook – I mean like not eating any food at all to wage a spiritual battle for your neighbor

- Oh well – I love food! I get all shaky and irritable and so I.. but I would do whatever it takes

Are you willing to bring someone with you to church?

- You know 80 percent of those who come forward at church or a crusade were brought to that event by a friend – listen, not invited, brought
 - Well I would but you know back to the time thing again, I can hardly get myself here – but I am willing to do whatever it takes
 - Are we???
- We need to pray! We need to fast! We need to be willing to say to that friend, I will pick you up
 - I can't do Sunday morning, well lucky for you Saturday Night, oh I work then too, or lucky for you, we have this crazy Wednesday Night service – you got to be able to do one of those
 - Bring them – do whatever it takes!!!!

These friends did whatever it took to get their friend to Jesus so he would be healed

- So I imagine when Jesus said, "your sins are forgiven you" they were a little bummed
 - That was not why we brought him

- His sin??? – the man is a paralytic, a man who is paralyzed in case anyone was wondering – he is not a paraplegic with a tic, their friend can't move – you have to get to help me Jesus, it's not about his sin
- I don't know if that statement bummed the friends out, We know that statement bummed out the scribes, the religious leader who were there

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- Sitting among the crowds of people were some religious leaders of Judaism
 - Mark account calls them scribes; Luke account says the Pharisees were there as well.
 - Both of these groups were experts in the Old Testament, and the religious authority of the day

And understand they had a right to be there

- it was their job to check out Rabbi and what they were teaching, especially someone who was having a following like Jesus and the stories that were surrounding Him – it was okay for them to be there
 - it would be like if we started to hear at your home group that people were drinking KoolAid and everyone thought they were flying around the room having a great Jesus time
 - you can bet, either myself, Pastor Rob, Steve or Eddie would be visiting your homefellowship next week
- Not to be mean, not to quench the spirit, but it's our job to protect the Spiritual content of the church body here at Calvary Chapel

So they should have been there, it was their attitude that was the problem

- they were looking to cause trouble
 - In our day they have crammed into the front row, they have their laptops open, looking for free wifi so they can live blog this baby, so they can twitter out everything that is wrong with what Jesus is doing – those are these guys

This is so telling to me – Luke's account lets us know

“And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.” – Luke 5:17

- Luke tells us the power of God was present to heal them –and I was just thinking of what they could have learned that day

I mean Jesus was slow pitching it to them

- They hear Jesus say, “Your sins are forgiven you” – and they respond with - “No one can forgive sins but God.”
 - Right –(slow pitch, for even the uncoordinated kids) - that is the Big E on the eye chart, that Jesus is trying to point out – “this my point” – I say his sins are forgiven, you say only God can forgive sin, hello right on – I am God!!!
- Skeptics says, how can you believe Jesus is God, He never claimed to be God - Hello Mcfly, He certainly did, on many occasions and this is one
 - Yours sins are forgiven you

- Only God can forgive sins – right!!!

And if that wasn't enough, Jesus comments on what they were thinking, not what they said, what they were thinking

- it would have been frustrating to be an opponent of Jesus, wouldn't it
 - you know, you come to Him and say, Good teacher
- **but you are thinking – thought Bubble picture #1 – I can't stand your teaching**
 - why can't you stand my teaching???
 - ah what???? – No, you are a good teacher
- **Thought Bubble picture #2 – How did He know what I was thinking?**
 - Because I'm God and I can read your thoughts

Thought Bubble picture #3 – that is just wrong bro

He says He can forgive sin, they know only God can forgive sin

He tells them what they were thinking

And then just to drive it home one more time, He says, just so you know that I have power to forgive sins, I am going to say to this man, get up and walk and He did!!!

- What is easier to say, your sins are forgiven you or rise and walk
 - Its tougher to forgive sins, but it is easier to say
 - It is easier to say, your sins are forgiven, because there is no way to verify that is true
 - But so they could know He has the ability to forgive sins, He says to the man, rise, take up your bed and walk

He heals the guy

- The power of the Lord was present to heal them, the scribes and the Pharisees
 - They could have realized this man is the Christ
- The long awaited Messiah
 - This could have been a great turning point for the nation of Israel

But it wasn't, not because God wasn't willing, but because they were not open to learn, they were critical in their spirits

- when we think of Pharisees we often think of legalism because that's what we have been taught
 - and that is true – the Pharisees had, with good intention at first, wanting so bad to not go back to all the idolatry we read about in the Old Testament – they put a law around the law
- And the thinking was – if we don't break this outer, man made law, we will never break God's law

But the problem came when their law became as important as God's law – and more than that, their relationship with God was based on them keeping this law

- So they were legalist – trying to earn God's favor by keeping a set of rules
 - That was true

But whenever we see these guys in the Scripture, the overarching problem to me was not their legalism, they were legalistic

- but the overarching problem was their critical spirit
 - they weren't there to learn from Jesus

- They weren't there to be open to what God wanted to do in their hearts
- They were there to be critical, they were there to criticize what they were hearing
 - To comment or as I said, in our day, they would be those guys who wanted to live blog their opinion of what they were hearing
 - But they were not open, they were critical

And I point this out because what is your perspective of what we are doing right now

- are you here available for the power of God to work in your life
 - are you open to what the Lord is trying to do this morning
- or are you being Pharisee?
 - I am not legalist! – I allow all kinds of shady things in my life and heart and before my eyes – ah congratulations – study for another time – but you can say – I am not a Pharisee
- But friend – a huge part of being a Pharisee was not just being legalist, it was having a critical spirit
 - Of always critiquing what you are hearing instead of letting it touch your heart

And I worry that some, the power of God is available to today to heal you

- but you are consumed with – well I wouldn't preach that sermon that way
 - I wouldn't emphasize this point
 - I don't think the crowds were a problem, why did he make that point – how did he hurt his foot running?

Do you see what I am saying?

- we don't want to be religious people
 - who in Jesus' day were keeping people who really needed a touch from Jesus from being able to get to Jesus
 - who in Jesus' day were only criticizing people who were helping people, they were not helping people
- Funny how things never change
 - We don't want that perspective
 - We want to be open for God to work in our lives
 - We want to be about God's business, not criticizing others who are doing God's work

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- I bet his friends were bummed when Jesus said, your sins are forgiven you
 - We know the scribes and Pharisees were
 - But I bet you, from this guys perspective, he wasn't

Many scholars believe from the wording of Jesus' sentence, "Your sins are forgiven you", that Jesus is indicating this man's condition was due to the

sin in His life, some disease he had contracted, some accident he had been in due to wrong choices

- That is obviously not true about all sickness and disease
 - We live in a fallen world that is broken
- But sometimes our condition is due to our sin
 - And many believe this was what was happening with this man
 - Sin was the real issue in this man's heart
 - And what a freeing thing it must have been for him to hear, he had been forgiven

That word “forgiven” means “separated, done away with or sent forth or send away”

- We were at one time one with our sin, but praise God if you have received Him, your sin has been separated from you, it has been literally done away with, and sent away
 - God looks at you tonight and says, what sin???
 - What a freeing thing that is and should be to our hearts, what a freeing thing it was to this man

But beyond the perspective of the man, this is what God has done for us – He takes our sin, Psalms tells us He separates it as far as the East is from the West. Isaiah says He puts it behind His back Isaiah says.

- **Micah 7:19 says “He casts it into the deepest sea”**

Now I have heard Bible teachers get excited about God removing our sin – and they say something like “God cast our sins in the sea and posts a no fishing sign.”

And people usually respond – Yeah my sin isn't going to be fished up again

- And they are right - it won't – but they are missing it
 - More than just no fishing, Revelation 21:1 – in the new heaven and new earth, – there is no sea
- Surfers say – what, no sea – listen, it didn't say no waves, God has it figured out, but you are missing the point
 - There is no sea, where your sin was cast
 - Because your sin is not just lost or hidden
 - Your sin is Gone!!!!
 - Does anybody think this is something to get fired up about?

The friends may have been bummed, the Pharisees and Scribes were definitely bummed, but I believe the perspective of this man was – Praise the Lord

- I felt so dirty, so ashamed
 - And I knew all of this was my fault, so when my friends were going to bring me to Jesus, I tried to protest – he wouldn't have time for me
 - He wouldn't want to touch me
 - Because I did this to me, it is my sin
- And I saw the crowds and I pleaded, let's come back another time
 - But they ripped through the roof, they lowered me before Him
 - And I was sure, He was going to cry out, get filthy man away
- But the love in His eyes, the gentleness of His touch, the power of His words as He said to me

- Your sins are forgiven you!!!!
- The Perspective of that Paralytic man must have been – there is no one like Jesus!
- Now we have seen these four different perspectives, but I want to close, by asking this question

What is your perspective?

- are you a sinner, I know you are, you feel dirty, defiled
 - don't ignore the Word of God
 - but come to Him, let Him touch you and grow you
- Oh He wouldn't want to be around me! – Yes He would
 - He was always drawn to the person in the room with the greatest need
 - He came not to hang out with religious people, but to touch people sick of sin
 - the answer is Jesus

If you are growing and doing good, great, then bring your friends to Jesus

- bring them in prayer, fast that the walls of their heart would fall
 - bring them physically here
 - do whatever it takes – short of sin, to bring people to Jesus

Don't have the perspective of a scribe and the Pharisees

- critical of everything
 - having an opinion on everything, but doing nothing yourself
 - how sad the power of God was present, but they were unwilling
- Don't be a Pharisee
 - Come to Jesus, bring your friends to Jesus
 - Be touched, be healed, be cleansed
 - Because there is no one like Jesus