

MARK

Mark Wk.5
Mk. 2:1-12

General:

- Pastor Chip opened with the song “Untouched by Human Hands” by Wayne Watson. What stood out to you from those lyrics, and how do they shape the way you think about your Christian life?
- What are some of the identity markers you’ve seen (in culture or church) that can create “in” and “out” groups?
- If the religious leaders were willing to kill Jesus, what are some ways we might assume we’re close to Jesus, but actually be missing what He’s doing or saying?
- How do you personally navigate the tension between being devoted to God while staying connected to people who may believe or live differently than you?
- In verse 6, the religious leaders question Jesus “in their hearts.” Have you ever felt a tension between what you feel in your heart and what you know God’s Word says? How did you respond?
- Are there areas in your life where you question things in your heart based on identity markers?
- Jesus refers to Himself as the “Son of Man” (Daniel 7)—a divine, authoritative figure. What does it mean for your life that Jesus claims not just to teach truth, but to have authority over sin and forgiveness?
- What does it mean for you personally that Jesus has authority not just to heal, but to forgive?
- In verse 11, Jesus says: “Rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” What does this moment reveal about the kind of transformation Jesus brings?
- What part of this story surprises or challenges you the most? Why?

Take Home 1: We often settle for getting visible fixes while ignoring deeper realities (Mk. 2:3)

- Why do you think we tend to focus more on external problems than internal ones?
- Where in your life might you be asking Jesus to fix circumstances while avoiding what He wants to address in your heart?
- How do you typically approach God when something is wrong? Do you ask Him to change your situation, your heart, or both?

Take Home 2: We often create access barriers to Jesus and possibly don't even realize it (Mk. 2:7)

- Where might you be creating access barriers (intentionally or unintentionally) for people to experience Jesus?
- What does someone have to look like, believe, or agree with before we are fully comfortable welcoming them?
- Is your focus primarily on your faithfulness or on the behaviors of others?
- Where might be focused more on identity markers than people's souls?
- Pastor Chip said: "We can end up defending the truth in a way that disconnects us from people." What does it look like to hold to truth while still remaining relationally connected?
- "Biblical truth should be delivered from within relationship, not from a distance of moral safety." Why is relationship so essential in how truth is lived out and shared?