

PASTOR'S NOTES

The King's Authority to Forgive Sins

Mark 2:1-12

King Jesus knows your deepest need.

Imagine the scene. The house is full of people hearing Jesus preach the word. There is no room for anyone else to draw near, including a paralytic who is carried by four men, each eager to get to Jesus.

Someone must have suggested that the men move to the roof. More than likely, it was flat and constructed in layers. The men dug through the packed earth, pulling apart the branches and reeds beneath it, and opening a space between the supporting beams large enough to lower the paralytic through.

They were fueled by love for the man whose only hope was Jesus and their confidence that Jesus could heal their loved one. It was all such an exercise and demonstration of tremendous faith. The Lord attends to such unwavering faith, faith that doesn't falter because there are obstacles in the way.

Mark writes that Jesus *"saw their faith."* I think Jesus saw the faith of all five men, the one lying and the four carrying him. Of course, faith itself cannot ordinarily be seen, but genuine faith reveals itself in what people do.

Genuine faith does not mean there will be no obstacles between Jesus and us, nor does every obstacle mean God has closed the door. These men encountered one obstacle after another, but their confidence in Jesus kept moving them toward him. And Jesus noticed.

Everyone in that room could see what this man needed, or at least they thought they could. However, Jesus saw something no one else in the room could see. He saw a need far deeper than paralysis.

King Jesus has divine authority.

Notice the first words Jesus spoke as the man lay in front of him: "Son, your sins are forgiven."

I doubt anyone was expecting those words. Perhaps they expected Jesus to address the man's inability to walk, but that wasn't the man's greatest need, so Jesus addressed his greatest problem first. His paralysis affected his body; his sin had eternal impact, alienating him from God.

We often come to Jesus preoccupied with what we believe is our greatest problem, while Jesus knows that our greatest problem is sin. We should eagerly embrace the Holy Spirit's convicting work and quickly confess our sin against God, assured that *he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

The scribes sitting in the room begin reasoning within themselves: *"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"* (Mark 2:7).

They are right about something extremely important. Who can forgive sins but God alone?

Sin is ultimately against God; therefore, forgiveness ultimately belongs to God. Jesus does what no priest or prophet could do about sin. He declares the man forgiven. The scribes understand the implication. If Jesus is merely a man, what he has said is blasphemy. They know that he has claimed for himself an authority that belongs to God alone.

Their theology is right. Their conclusion about Jesus is wrong.

Another intriguing demonstration of his divine authority is found in the narrative. Jesus saw the faith that brought the paralytic to him, and he saw the unbelief hidden within the scribes.

King Jesus proves his authority to forgive.

In a masterful way, Jesus reveals what can't be seen, namely his ability to forgive sins, by demonstrating his power to do what can be seen, commanding the paralytic: "Rise, take up your bed and walk!" Only God could say to a paralytic, "Rise and walk," just as only God can say to a sinner, "Your sins are forgiven."

The Lord is purposefully demonstrating his authority for the good of those gathered. ¹⁰ *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-- he said to the paralytic--* ¹¹ *"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."* (Mark 2:10-11)

"Son of Man" is significant. See Daniel 7:13-14. Daniel envisioned the Son of Man receiving everlasting dominion, glory, and a kingdom in which all peoples, nations, and languages would serve him. And now, standing in that crowded house in Capernaum, Jesus identifies himself as that Son of Man, who has *authority on earth to forgive sins*. The One Daniel saw receiving an everlasting kingdom is standing before them.

Notice the different responses to Jesus in the room.

1. The paralytic. He came to Jesus helpless and went home transformed, glorifying God.
2. The crowd. They are amazed, but being amazed by Jesus is not the same thing as having faith in him.
3. The scribes and Pharisees. They were obstinate toward Jesus, increasingly so.

Mark's account has put us in the room, which begs the question: What will we do with Jesus? Because the greatest news in this passage isn't that Jesus can make a paralyzed man walk. It is that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

Repent and believe the gospel of Christ.



Sunday, September 20, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
11:45 AM | Conference Center

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have.
(Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church

**The Well
at Brunson Farms**

TODAY from 2:00 until 6:30 PM
BRUNSON FARMS
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table, and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical tools to grow in and live out their faith.

Register on the App or mbchurch.com
COST: \$25

**FOUNDATIONS for
Marriage**

New class for engaged or newly married couples
begins Sunday, October 4 at 10:30 AM in Rm 302

55+ SUNDAY LUNCH
with **JOHN BRADY, IMB**
VP for GLOBAL AFFAIRS
OCT 11 | 11:35 AM | GYM
COST: \$10





This Sunday lunch gathering offers a meaningful opportunity to enjoy a meal together while hearing firsthand how God is at work around the world through global missions. Dr. John Brady, Vice President for Global Affairs at the IMB, will share timely insights, stories from the field, and encouragement to strengthen our vision for the Great Commission and inspire faithful engagement in God's mission. **Cost: \$10 / Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com**

GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

**WHAT'S HAPPENING
THIS WEEK!**

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
2:00 pm - The Well at Brunson Farms
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
6:30 pm - The Collective (Guys Night) - Kids' Theater

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Abundant Life Choir singing at Legacy Village, Jacksonville
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Fried Pork Chops, Cheddar Crusted Potatoes, Green Beans, Kale Crunch Salad, Rolls & Dessert or Salad with a Protein Kids: Mini Corn Dogs & Chips)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Wednesday Breakouts, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

**2026 DAILY
BIBLE READING**

Sept 20 - Nehemiah 5:1-13	Sept 24 - Nehemiah 8
Sept 21 - Nehemiah 5:14-19	Sept 25 - Nehemiah 9
Sept 22 - Nehemiah 6	Sept 26 - Nehemiah 10
Sept 23 - Nehemiah 7	

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE gift!**

**life
group**
Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship



**The Forge:
Father/Son Retreat**
November 6-7
WorldSong Missions Place
\$45 Per Child / \$90 Per Adult
{ \$20 deposit per registrant }
Register on the App or mbchurch.com

55+ CHRISTMAS LUNCH
at the **TATE HOUSE**
TATE, GA | DEC 3 | Cost: \$70
Register on the App or mbchurch.com



**HIGH SCHOOL
WINTER RETREAT '26**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28-THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT // WEST VIRGINIA
REGISTRATION + DETAILS ON THE APP & [MBCHURCH.COM](https://mbchurch.com)



Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Ivan Fike

- Tim MacMillan & family in the loss of his brother
- Charlie Wells - UAB
- Ann Wells - recovering from heart cath
- Nathan Clay - recovering from knee surgery
- Larry Parker - back surgery 9/23