



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Jesus, The Forgiver**
Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**
Scriptures: **Mark 2:1-12**

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

2 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, “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’? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” 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!”

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we’ll continue our series through the Gospel of Mark. In this message, we’ll explore how the kingdom of God draws near through the forgiveness that Jesus offers.

Sermon Questions:

1. Today’s text tells about a man who can’t get to Jesus on his own. Have you ever been in such a tough place that you feel like you can’t get to Jesus? What was that season in your life like and what helped you?
2. Like the four friends in the story. We want to become ones who are helping people get to Jesus. However, sometimes you’re called to carry people and sometimes you need to be carried. What season are you in right now- do you have the capacity to help carry others or do you need to be carried?
3. Jesus is breaking open the roof of a closed religious system and pouring forgiveness down. He is saying forgiveness is not confined to the temple, it is found in me. However, we can have a tendency to judge who is in good standing with God and who is in bad standing with God. Often, it’s based on things that matter most to us. In what areas do you struggle to judge others standing with God or how have you felt judged by others?

4. Forgiveness is a process. We're not only called to receive forgiveness but to extend it. Pastor Rich shared 5 things forgiveness doesn't mean and the stages of forgiveness. What do you relate to the most or where are you challenged?

5 Things forgiveness doesn't mean:

- Forgetting what someone has done.
- There are no consequences.
- We don't feel pain.
- Automatic reconciliation
- Things will always be as they once were.

Stages of forgiveness:

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance