

INTER- RUPTING JESUS

"FRIENDS AND SINNERS"

Mark 2 | Sermon #1 in the Lenten Series "Interrupting Jesus"
March 12, 2017

GATHERING

1. Have you ever known someone with a significant disability? Can you think about a need they had that might not have been obvious?
 2. Have you ever known someone who seemed to have it all together who actually had deep needs no one could see?
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LOOKING AT THE TEXT

In this series, we are looking at scenes where Jesus is interrupted by someone. Often when we are interrupted we respond spontaneously and we reveal what is really in our hearts. So, in these scenes, when people come to Jesus we see his mercy, his desire to teach truth and his heart for lost people.

In Mark 2 Jesus is teaching in Galilee. He has become quite popular because of his healing and teaching and a crowd has gathered. The crowd is so thick in fact that four friends who want to see Jesus desperately cannot get through to him. They have to get creative. They went through the roof, which in that day would have been flat and strong enough to stand on, but still made only of thatch and mud.

Read Mark 2:1-12

1. What do you think was going through the minds of the four friends? What was their motivation?
2. How do you think the disabled man felt? What could have been some of his emotions/feelings when Jesus first spoke to him?
3. Assuming Jesus knew what he was doing, why did Jesus forgive this man and then heal him?
4. Finally, how did the religious authorities respond? What did Jesus force them to consider?

Read Mark 2:13-17

1. Jesus was teaching beside a lake and at some point he turned aside to address Levi. What did he tell Levi to do? Why is this shocking, what do we know about tax collectors in the 1st century Jewish culture?

2. Where is Jesus in verse 15? How do you think he got there? How did the teachers of the law respond?
 3. It is easy to romanticize this scene, but we need to remember that the people at Levi's house were considered sinful, irreligious people simply by what they did or how they lived. Have you ever been in a situation like this?
 4. We don't need to wonder about why Jesus is doing what he is doing because responds to the criticism. What does he say and what does it mean?
 5. How challenging is this account to you? If you were honest, who are you most like in this story, Jesus, the sinners or the teachers of the law?
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CONCLUSION

1. In the healing of the man lowered through the roof, Jesus reveals several things. He shows us that he has the power to forgive sins. He also shows us that he knows our deepest need. It is not surprising that this man's deepest need is connected to being forgiven. We often carry guilt that no one can see. Can share a time when you thought you had a need and God did something deeper in you? Is anything like that going on in you now?
2. Jesus was comfortable around those others thought were sinners. He ate with them because he loved them. How comfortable are you "eating with sinners?" Do you regularly hang out with "lost" people? How can you be more like Jesus in this?
3. Can you think of someone you would like to "bring to Jesus?"