



A POLITIC OF JESUS: PEOPLE OVER PROGRAMS
MARK 2:1-12; 2:23-28
10-25-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Welcome

Good Morning! This morning we have a guest pastor from Open Door Church in Stockton, Hefti Brunold. We are grateful for his leadership in teaching this week. Take a moment now to pray for the next hour as people of this congregation worship, pray, listen and learn together, even while apart.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship Psalm 25 OF DAVID

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose. ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land. The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Christ Candle – Saudi Arabia

Suffering is a part of life. However, some suffer far more than others. There are places in this world that are darker and harbor and facilitate evil more than others; where waking up is a dangerous thing. While life is more challenging in America these days, it is nothing compared to other places. Though



there is more unrest, polarization and hostility, we still have freedom and our persecution in minimal. Saudi Arabia is the 13th most difficult place to be a disciple of Jesus in this world. Of the 34 million Saudi Arabians, 1.4 million are Christians. Saudi Arabia's strict branch of Islam governs every aspect of life for its citizens. Openly practicing other religions is illegal. All Saudi citizens are required to be Muslim, and non-citizens of other faiths are expected to worship privately. The spike in pressure from family life form the 2019 to the 2020 World Watch List reflects the brutal reality for Christians who have converted from Islam – these believers risk violence because of their decision to follow Jesus of Nazareth.

Prayer Points: Pray for isolated believers all over Saudi Arabia, who lack fellowship and community. They need discipleship and a sense of belonging. Pray Christian Saudis will find was to share the truth of the gospel with their own family members. It is forbidden to openly practice religions other than Islam – conversion is punishable by death. Please pray Muslim Saudis leaders will come to know Jesus.

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine His light!

Light the Candle

Song – Death Was Arrested – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMsMiluCUUI>

*Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

*Released from my chains I'm a prisoner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began*

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me
You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You*

*Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began*

Oh, Your grace so free washes over me



*You have made me new now life begins with You
It's your endless love pouring down on us
You have made us new now life begins with You
Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free, free, forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began*

Responsive Reading (Adapted from the Book of Common Worship)

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst, come worship a God who feeds the hungry. In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed, come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumor of war, of being against one another, let us worship a God who is One and if for us in Jesus of Nazareth and not against us. In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness, come worship a God who gives life meaning. Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

Eternal God, our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments so that we might not turn aside any longer from the marginalized and oppressed, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Song – Jesus Strong And Kind -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ColfH4V2PQE>

*Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him
No one else can satisfy, I should come to Him
Jesus said, if I am weak, I should come to Him
No one else can be my strength, I should come to Him
For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind
Jesus said that if I fear, I should come to Him
No one else can be my shield, I should come to Him
For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind
Jesus said, if I am lost, He will come to me
And He showed me on that cross
He will come to me*



*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind*

*For the Lord is good and faithful
He will keep us day and night
We can always run to Jesus
Jesus, strong and kind
Jesus, strong and kind*

Song – Turn Your Eyes – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJDELcuYX3g>

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace*

*Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased*

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

*Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins*

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

*Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'*

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*



Prayer

Spend some time praying for the people of Community CRC and then the people of surrounding cities.

Offering – Partners Worldwide

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration

Remember and give thanks for our youth – their presence and participation at CCRC!

Scripture Reading – Mark 2:1-12; 23-28

Gospel Message – –

We covered these texts on March 22 and May 24, 2020. Take some time to review what we talked about back then. How has your understanding and engagement with Jesus of Nazareth grown? What might these texts be saying to you today?

From March 22 (Mark 2:1-12) – we covered this scene within the larger narrative from chapter 8:23 through 9:8. In it, we addressed the authority of Jesus of Nazareth. If you recall, this is when the shelter in place just began and we began meeting in homes. The pandemic was just beginning. How have you grown in your understanding and experience of the authority of Jesus over sickness and that he is Lord and Messiah for us and not against us? Here is what we navigated back then:

We are in a series entitled, *Jesus of Nazareth* that is focusing on who the biblical Jesus is and our response to him. We have just finished the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught us that his disciples are blessed because of God's grace towards them. He then showed that while we are to strive to keep the law in the obedience of faith, no one can ever reach God or earn his saving grace by it. We all fall woefully short. Thus, everyone's need for grace. Our response is gratitude and delight to live as citizens of the kingdom of God, as children of the King.

The end of our passage last week spoke about the crowd's amazement at Jesus because he was one who spoke with authority (Matthew 7:29). We will focus on the word *authority* this week as Jesus doesn't just talk a good game, he lives it. In the passage you just read, Jesus showed his authority over three spheres of life, demonstrating that he is Lord, he is the Messiah, he is the Savior...that he has authority.

What does the word authority mean? To have authority is to have the right to control or govern over, to rule over, to control. It means to have the ability and power and freedom to accomplish something. We mentioned at the beginning of this series through Matthew that Jesus is presented as Prophet, Priest and King. The sermon of the Mount was Jesus as Prophet, telling us the truth about life in the Kingdom.

Today's passage focuses on Jesus being King, that is, having authority.

Notice in our passage that Jesus demonstrates his authority in three spheres of life:

I. Authority over Natural Realm

Jesus calms a great storm on the sea of Galilee with his voice!



This is a picture of the Sea of Galilee. Imagine being on it in a fierce storm in which you thought you were about to drown and die. Imagine Jesus sleeping next to you. What are your thinking? Feeling? You wake him and he asks you why you are afraid – why does he ask this? Then, he stands and says a few words and the storm obeys him and stops! Now what are your thinking and feeling? What is Jesus’ point about faith? About him? About life?

II. Authority over Spiritual Realm

Jesus heals two men with demons with a simple command, “Go!”



This is a picture of an area on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus performed this miracle. Imagine being the person watching the herd of pigs with two crazy, demon possessed men in the nearby hills. Jesus speaks with the demons that possess these men and commands them with a single word, “Go!” to enter the nearby herd of pigs. What difference does it make to you that Jesus has authority over demons? What are the freed men thinking?

III. Authority over Biological Realm

Jesus heals a paralyzed man!



This is a picture of Capernaum, Jesus’ home town and where he healed the paralytic. Take a look at your body. How does it look? How does it feel? Think of those who are sick from various causes, including the coronavirus. How does Jesus’ authority over the biological realm strengthen your faith? What difference does it make for us in today’s world? Why do you think the Scribes reacted the way they did? Jesus “saw their faith.” How are others seeing your faith?

Finally, (and arguably most importantly) why did Jesus also forgive his sins? What is the Good News that Jesus is declaring?

May we, as Jesus’ disciples draw great comfort from Jesus’ authority over the physical realm, the spiritual realm and the biological realm. May he have authority over our lives and may we respond with a faith that can be seen by others. May we rest in the comfort of Jesus’ authority to forgive our sins.

From May 22 (Mark 2:23-28) – we covered this scene within the larger narrative of chapter 12 and how it was setting up Matthew to convey the massively important message that Jesus is for us and that we are to be for one another, including the marginalized. Here is that section:

In our passage, it is Saturday the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day was the central and most important day of the week for the Jews. (This is a good thing and something that should be true of us today, but that is another sermon). Genesis 2:2-3 says, “And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the



seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.” And Exodus 20:8-10 says, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.” This is the 3rd commandment. Over time, the Jewish leaders came to remember the Sabbath not for what it was for (rest, holiness) but for what it was not (don’t do this or that). This is a bad thing and what we will focus on this morning. They came to recognize 39 different categories of work that was prohibited on the Sabbath. Furthermore, each of these categories had many sub-categories of “thou shall nots.” Not surprisingly, the Sabbath became a day that many Jews developed a distaste for because they feared breaking one of the many laws they were forbidden to do, and thereby sin and fall under God’s condemnation. So, what Matthew will be pointing out is that the Sabbath, a day of rest had become a day laden with the burden and weight of worrying about law breaking, just the opposite of what Jesus and the Sabbath are all about.

In our first scene, on the Sabbath day, the disciples are hungry and pick heads of grain to eat. No biggie right? Wrong. This was against one of the many laws the Jewish leaders had set up that was considered work and therefore forbidden on the Sabbath. In the legalist, elder brother, Pharisee’s eyes, Jesus’ disciples are lawbreakers and stand guilty and condemned. Jesus undoes this legalist lynching knot by exposing their heart. He says that they don’t understand that God desires mercy over sacrifice; that he wants internally driven acts of grace rather than externally driven acts of law. But, because they were focused on keeping the external acts of the law, they neglected their heart....and it hardens, becoming merciless and graceless and capable of “condemning the guiltless.” Jesus caps this scene with the grand declaration that the “Son of Man is the lord of the Sabbath.” The religious legalist had flipped this and made the Sabbath lord over the Son of Man. Jesus reasserts the truth that the Sabbath serves the purposes of Jesus and humanity, not the other way around. The Sabbath is a day of rest, holiness, mercy and acts of love and grace towards one another. This fits perfectly into what Jesus previously said at the end of chapter 11 about coming to him for rest. He is the Lord of the Sabbath.... Jesus of Nazareth is God’s “beloved” servant; God’s chosen one with whom God is “well pleased”; the one that God has put his Spirit upon; the one who will not quarrel; the one who will not break a “bruised reed” or snuff out a “smoldering wick”; the one who proclaims and brings justice. This Jesus is the one they want to destroy, wipe out, kill. Friends, we are the bruised reed and smoldering wick. We are the ones to whom Jesus of Nazareth extends his hands of grace and mercy to heal us, forgive us and make us new. **Matthew is saying that Jesus of Nazareth is for us, not against us! Jesus of Nazareth is the one who says, Come to me all who are weary and I will give you rest!**

Communion Meditation

As we prepare for communion this morning, remember the Passover story; remember the early church and her subversive understanding of what Communion testifies too – the life-changing faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom here on earth.

Disciples of Jesus are one in him – one faith, one baptism, one Lord.

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

We believe in God, the Father almighty,



Creator of heaven and earth.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Remember and believe that the body & blood of Jesus was given & shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song – I Surrender All – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfQm6o4V1SI&feature=emb_logo

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.

I will ever love and trust Him,

In His presence daily live

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee my blessed Savior,

I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine;

Let me feel the Holy Spirit,

Truly know that Thou are mine

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee my blessed Savior,

I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;

Fill me with Thy love and power,

Let Thy blessing fall on me.

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee my blessed Savior,

I surrender all.

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!