

**Message as Prepared for Barrett Berry, Lead Pastor  
Empowered Living Church - The ELC  
Series: The Power of Faith  
Theme: Get Up and Walk**

**Mark 2:1-12 (NIV) - Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man**

**1** 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!”

**CONTEXT:**

Entering into this new year we are strategically moving this church and her people from this safe place of comfort tucked away in the industrial zone into the clutter of churches in the area and city for all to see. We are getting in the way of God so that he can bless us in the presence of our enemies, frenemies, and for the world to see that He remains God. Placing us in Kennedy Middle is positioning us for the next part of our journey. The next phase of this journey will see miracles that will awe many and amaze everyone. God is going to heal bodies, minds, and spirits. God is going to release the power of prophecy, faith, and leadership. God is going to make this house, His house, a place of prayer where the three pillars of this church lifts its people into the realms of wholeness spiritually, educationally, and financially. We will witness people picking up and walking into their destinies of business ownership, home ownership, and life ownership that includes new marriages, saved marriages, healthy families, and

a strong sense of community among this church family. Because we are moving by faith God is positioning to be a witness of His greatness right here in Charlotte. This is where we find our story in Mark the second chapter.

### **MIRACLE ONE: Jesus had a full room**

**Mark 2:1-2** ~ 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.

**Mark 6:4-6** ~ *4 Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

There will be times when you think God's anointing is NOT upon you. Most often these times occur once people become too familiar with you. Jesus needed to prove a point, therefore it made it happen!

### **MIRACLE TWO: Faith moves God into Action**

**Mark 2:3-5** ~ 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."

God is Holy, therefore Jesus wipes away sins prior to healing the paralyzed man.

**1 Peter 1:16-17 NIV** ~ *15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

Jesus was in the midst of His enemies. He knew scriptures needed to be fulfilled. As Messiah, the leaders of the synagogue, did not accept Jesus as Lord Jesus and viewed his actions as that of any enemy. Jesus kept true to the scriptures by eliminating sin, making the men of faith clean and holy by forgiving their sins. This keeps in step with the scriptures of old in **Deuteronomy 23:14 NIV**:

*14 For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.*

### **MIRACLE THREE: Jesus forgave sins**

**Mark 2:6-7** ~ 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?”

The Book of Luke adds to the fame of Jesus by sharing an experience of His prior to meeting up with the paralyzed man.

**Luke 4:16-21 NIV** ~ *16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

### **MIRACLE FOUR: Jesus prophetically knew what they were thinking**

**Mark 2:8-9** ~ 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’?”

Prophecy is real. In 2020, we intend to raise up some prophets in this house to move God’s people forward.

### **MIRACLE FIVE: God will heal you to show others He’s God**

**Mark 2:10-12** ~ 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!”

Jesus healed the paralysed man not only to show others that He was Immanuel, to teach people how to prophesy, and to encourage the people. In 2020, God wants to awe people by blessing you with a miracle when you display great faith. We have authority to prophesy, teach, and do miracles under the anointing of God, because he gave man this authority. Read . . .

**Matthew 9:7-8 NIV** ~ 7 Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

### **CONCLUSION: Get up and walk with your miracle!**

**Mark 2:12** ~ 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!”

Get up and walk? The wise words of today is to get up and walk. There was a paralysed man who along with his friends had great faith. The group of friends believed that if they could get the paralysed man in the presence of Jesus he would be healed. It was a challenge, but they got through the crowd. Jesus saw their acts of faith, forgave their sins, and with authority amazed the crowd by healing the paralyzed man. But, the man sat still as though he remained paralyzed, but this time from analysis. He had the paralysis from analysis. Instead of walking away as a healed man he sat with his friends like he remained paralyzed. Jesus had to inspire the man to walk by saying Get Up and Walk. The man grabbed his things and walked away healed. Today, God is telling you to get up and walk into your miracle, your new vision, your new purpose because God has already provided your miracle with his victory over the cross.

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!"

Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such **authority to man**.