



Welcome to God's Faithful Pursuit, a podcast ministry of Family Church in Port Charlotte, Florida. My name is Shannon Bishop. I am a wife, a mother, a writer, but most importantly, a follower of Jesus who loves to share stories of what God has done in the lives of others. So come with me as we explore the beauty of God's faithful pursuit.

Hello and welcome back to our podcast. I'm so excited to have you here. My name is Shannon Bishop, and I have my friend Marlena Bender here. Marlena, say hello. Hello.

Hi. So, we are continuing with the Book of Mark. If you haven't been tuning in, we started this new series where Marlena and I are discussing what our wives' discipleship group discussed when we met and went through the Book of Mark. So just little snippets, little nuggets that stood out to us that we feel our listeners would love to glean from and hear. Yeah.

Thanks for being here, Marlena. Thank you. Thanks for having me. Okay, so last time we discussed chapter one of Mark. So, we are in chapter two, and this chapter two is basically the chapter where Jesus heals a paralytic man.

This is the guy where his friends lowered him through the roof. We see the call of Matthew, and then we see a little bit about the Sabbath, and just kind of learning what that's all about. So that's pretty much our points that we're going to be talking on today. Our first one comes from Mark 2, verses 4 through 5. Marlena, do you want to read that?

Sure. Since they could not get to him, to Jesus, because of the crowd, they. They made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it, and then they lowered the mat the man was laying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, son, your sins are forgiven. Now I think you're good.

Yep. Wow. So that these friends are pretty great, I would say. What can we as wives, like, how important would you say it is to have godly friendships? Oh, boy.

I think it's very important to have godly friendships. If a person truly loves you as a sister in Christ, you know, she will want to point things out if she feels you are strained from God and the disciplines of your life that she saw before are not there anymore. She's going to try to get you to be Christ-centered again and God centered. And to have a friend like that is amazing. Yeah.

I think that we don't even realize how important godly friendships are sometimes. And we can just go for so long with friendships that are more surface-level or even more worldly and think everything's fine. But when it really comes down to a time where you need friends to intercede for you and just cry out to God for you, to present you in front of the Lord to lay you at his feet in prayer, that. That is so powerful. And we see it here in the story that not only is he healed, but like, son, your sins are forgiven.

Like, I mean, so going beyond just healing, it's a healing of the heart as well. And so, I think that it's kind of a true statement, like, you are who you hang out with. Oh, totally agree. Yeah. And so that's why I'm so glad you're my good friend.

Well, same here. There are plenty of times that we have gone to the Lord for each other and even, like our group, you know, just having those friendships. And so, yet again, another encouragement. If you're listening and you don't have a small group, this would be a time to call the office, ask about it, find out, is there a group that is specific to this stage in life or these types of women, or join a Bible study. And even if it's kind of a bigger one, say there's like 20 women or, you know, even 40 women or whatever the size might be, you can always be looking out and just ask the Lord, like, lord, who.

Who do you want me to connect with? Yeah, you're going to be drawn to that person, too. You're going to see what they have to say as you go around and be like, I'd like to talk to that person more. And then ask them out for coffee. Exactly.

And get to know them a little bit better because those are where the relationships really form. Yeah, for sure. And it's just so important. So don't be shy, ladies. This is your call to make the call.

Get a new friend. Oh, boy. So, yes, godly friendships, do not underestimate those because it is life-changing. And then we look over to the call of Matthew. As we know, he was in the tax collector booth.

And Jesus comes up and just says, Follow me. And he rose and followed him. And then they had a party at Matthew's house. And let's see, I think it was verse 17 that we paid attention to. And when Jesus heard it.

Okay, but what did he hear? What is the context?

So, the Pharisees saw that they were eating with sinners and tax collectors and. And said to his disciples, why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners? And I think in another version it says scum or something, you know, and when he heard it. Jesus said to them, those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick, I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. So, let's talk this out.

What does this verse mean? What do you think, Marlana? Well, I knew before I knew Christ, I was sick, according to this. And so, for people to reach out to me, that's what I needed, and I was healed from that. Not saying that I don't fall into different sicknesses of the worldly type, but now we have to be on that call to reach those who don't know about Jesus, because really, they are.

They are sick without Him. Right. And so just to be aware of that and to have concern for those. The heart. Yes, absolutely.

And I think it also goes to speak to the people who. Because we all need the physician. It's not saying that, oh, some need it, some don't. We all need it, but the Pharisees don't know they need it. And that's the difference.

So, he's like, I didn't come here for you. I came here for the ones who know they need a savior. Now, obviously, he came to save all. He died for all. But in this specific verse, he's just sort of pointing out that, you know, I'm here for the ones who know that they're sinners and know that they need a savior.

And I think that's so important for us, even once we're saved, like, sometimes we can have that attitude that we're good. Right. We don't need him anymore. We got this. And that's so not the case.

Yeah. And that's why the friendships come in handy. There you go. See that path that you're going down? And they can call you out on that and just kind of redirect you again.

Yeah, absolutely. I like making that connection there. Good job. No problem.

It also makes me think of the story or the part in the Bible in Luke 18, 10, 14, where it talks about the two guys that are praying that come to the altar. Let me see here. Two men went up. Oh. To the temple to pray.

One a Pharisee and the other one a tax collector. The Pharisee standing by himself, prayed thus, God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust adulterers, or even, like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get. But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me.

A sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house, justified rather than the other one. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. So, yeah, that's a perfect example of how, you know, because Pharisees, they believed in God. They knew all the scripture, all the things, but he did not have a humble heart of one that needed God.

He had a heart of pride. And I'm good. I'm not sick. I don't need a physician. I do all these great things.

And so, when we look at these two guys, we should be the one, the tax collector that just is beating their breast and just can't even fathom that God would forgive us and love us like that. Yeah, I love that, too, because, I mean, even in church, we have that. I mean, we have the people, too, that. I mean, just because you come to church, you know, is there fruit, you know, or are you just saying, oh, I'm good. I come to church, I do this, I do that, but where's your heart, really?

And we should be crying every day. Oh, yeah. There's so many things that we do wrong every day. And just, you know, going to God for. Yeah, for that.

Yeah. And understanding that, like, there's nothing good in me. The only thing good in me is Christ. And everything good or anything good that comes out is because it comes from him. And so just having that sort of attitude of that humility to be like, okay, I'm here to literally be a vessel for the Holy Spirit and to try to make disciples.

Yeah. So, what else? I gotta get back to my notes here on our next one. The Sabbath. Oh, the Sabbath.

So, will you read that first? 27, mark 2, 27.

Then he said to them, the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So, the Son of Man is Lord, even. Even of the Sabbath.

That's a good one. It's funny, when I would hear this verse, I would always get confused about what is it really saying? What does this mean? The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. And so, what's your kind of take on it, Marlena?

Well, I just think, you know, God made that for a day of rest, but also to be in his presence. And instead of, you know, the Sabbath being like us, being made for the Sabbath. Right. It's like a day. The day is supposed to be about God, not about us.

Correct. Not all the rules. That's where I can see we can get confused. But like the Pharisees they were saying, well, you can't do this, you can't do that. And I remember growing up because we always camped at a Christian reformed conference grounds and, and you couldn't swim on Sunday.

And I thought that was really weird. But that's just how I grew up. I'm like, well, we can't do that. But then other people were going swimming and it's enjoyable. Right?

And so now I see it different. Like, I've heard a lot of, you know, pastors preach on this and then I've also, you know, did some research on my own. But as long as you're enjoying your

day in God's plan, whether it be at the beach or doing something outside that you love, hiking, there's nothing wrong with that. Yeah, for my family, I mean, our unit, our family unit, we, we don't do any dishes, you know, that's just something we decided to do. We just don't work like that.

Like a normal, you know, like a normal day. We would do the dishes, or we'd make the bed. We don't do that at our house and that's okay. And there's just other things. We don't shop on Sunday usually.

I mean, once in a great while if we have to get something, but we set it apart and it's just our day to go to church and that's just what we decided to do. Yeah, no, I love that. And I like how, you know, when you realize that the Sabbath was made for us to rest and recharge with the Lord and just do something that is not gonna stress us out, but where we can just be chill with Jesus and our family, it makes a world of difference. I remember hearing a podcast one time where they would start. It was this couple and they were talking, and they would start the Sabbath on Saturday evening.

So, they'd make it a 24-hour Sabbath. And so starting Saturday evening, ending Sunday evening. And so Saturday night they would host a dinner, but not a stressful dinner party, just like close, close friends or family that they felt very comfortable with. Everyone brought something and they would just enjoy that time being together and breaking bread together. And then the next day they would just have.

Well, they'd go to church, of course, and then maybe have a nice lunch, but definitely more geared around restful quality time. And I like that, I like that idea because especially being a ministry family, Sunday is, you know, work. And so, getting to start it on a Saturday night I think would be very refreshing. I'm gonna talk to Jason about it. There you go, let me know how that goes.

But, yeah, it's definitely. I think a lot of times we're not super intentional about Sabbath, about rest. We just kind of, oh, yeah, that's Sunday and church and lunch and, you know, and it's. I think it would do all of us a lot of good to be more intentional to talk with our spouse and be like, how do we want to practice the Sabbath? Yes.

And does the Sabbath always need to be on Sunday? See, and that's what I've heard, too. It's just setting one day aside that it's not like all the others. And a lot of the pastors here at the church, they take Fridays off. Yeah.

And that's their Sabbath. And at other churches I went to, they took Mondays off. And, you know, it's just having a day that's different than all the others. Yeah. No, I like that a lot.

And then if we were to look at it from a wife perspective, does that look any different, do you think taking a Sabbath and just sort of being mindful of your marriage. Well, I think so. I mean, for me, me not doing the dishes or doing that kind of stuff, my concern isn't on that anymore. Like, I just know I'm not bothered by that. It'll get done the next day, and it always does.

And to be more intentional, just hanging out with the family, my husband, and not worrying about that normal stuff that I normally would. Right. Yeah. And I think encouraging your husband to take rest, you know, if he needs a nap. Just saying, hey, you should go take a nap.

That's funny. Jason and I have been napping a lot on Sundays. It's a great day. It really is. It's like we've reached that age where it's like, yep, get home from church.

I've been doing it for years. Oh, gosh. But, yeah, naps have become our new thing. So, yes, the Sabbath, it was made for us. We were not made for it.

Correct. Right. I said that. Right. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

Yeah. Say it one more time, we'll stop. No, I think that's good. We can keep that.

That's fun. I like learning with you, Marlena. Thank you. Same here. And so that really covers Mark, Chapter two, I would say.

Anything else. Any other thoughts that stood out to you or any last words before we sign off? Not really. Until next time. I just enjoyed reviewing it again.

Yeah, I did, too. I think that just kind of remembering those godly friendships and making sure that we're nourishing those and not leaving that behind in the busyness of everything. And then. And then also just remembering that to take that time to rest and be in God's presence. Yeah.

Recharge for sure. So, yeah, this was a quick one today, but I think it was good. Thank you for having me. You're welcome. And we will see you guys' next time.

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