

"I don't know that there's a line in that song that I don't like. But one of my favorites is those no glory in my song. It's not what I was, people.

It's what I am.

That's what I get to be.

There's nothing back there.

We're looking back.

We're to start going forward.

All right.

The message I want to share with you this morning is how I end up doing a lot of things. I found this while I was looking for something else, basically.

And I do that with just about every aspect of my life.

I find what I was looking for last week when I'm looking for something else. But when I first found this, I thought, what version of the Bible is that from?

It was from the King James.

And I've been all over it, okay? All over this. This is what I'm going to talk about this morning.

And somehow I just missed this part.

Title of this morning's message?

Strange things. Strange things.

One verse, Luke chapter 5, verse number 17.

This is right before the story of where they dropped the man through the roof."

"But I'm not talking very much about that at all.

We're going to talk about that.

I'm going to talk about everything around it.

Luke 5 and 17 says this.

And it came to pass on a certain day as he was teaching that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by.

The doctors of the law are the scribes.

And as he was talking about, the scribes and the Pharisees sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem.

And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

The power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Now, our scripture reading says that Jesus was there teaching. Mark 2 and 1, the same story is found in Mark 2.

The second verse says that he was there preaching the Word.

The last line of our scripture reading said that the power of the Lord was present to heal. So he came to teach, he came to preach, and he came to heal.

Okay?

That's what Jesus is there for. This day we're talking about, and that's what he's here for this day that we're living in. Same thing"

"To teach, to preach, and to heal.

Okay?

Now, we're going to go all the way back to the first part of the fifth chapter here.

And I want you to understand that everything I'm talking about this morning is taking place in or very near the city of Capernaum.

The city of Capernaum was where Jesus did the majority of his miracles.

Most all of the miracles took place around the Sea of Galilee area. But as we start in the first part of the fifth chapter, verse one says it came to pass as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God.

He stood by the Lake of Genesaret.

That Lake of Genesaret is the Sea of Galilee. And when the Bible talks about the Sea of Galilee, it's not talking about a huge body of water. The Sea of Galilee is more like a big lake.

It's seven miles across, and it's about 13 or 14 miles top to bottom.

It's just a huge, fresh water lake.

It is actually the lowest fresh water body of water on Earth.

The Sea of Galilee is."

"So this is where he's at. And by the way, Capernaum, the city of Capernaum, is located on the Sea of Galilee. He's right there.

So he's right there. And he's got all these people coming close to him, wanting to hear him preach, wanting to hear him preach, wanting to hear the Word of God. And they're pressing on him, and he can't really get it out there.

So he asks these two ships, and he asks the owners of the ship, will you take me out a little bit so I can share with these people who've all crowded around? And the two ships belong to Simon and Andrew and James and John. All right.

This story is found also in the second chapter of Mark.

So you can look at it back there if you want to.

And the Bible says they launched out into the sea there, just a little ways from shore, and he talked to them. The third verse says that he sat down and talked to people out of the ship. Now, what we don't know is how long did he speak?

How long did he preach?"

"We don't know exactly what the message was.

We just know it was the Word of God, that he shared with them the Word of God.

But we have no idea how long he was out there, and we have no idea what the fishermen were doing. I mean, Simon and Andrew, James and John, they're there, and they've lost it. They don't even know why they said yes.

You ever done anything in life when you did it?

And he said, I don't know why I said I'd do this.

Yeah.

I got to wonder if that's what that was going on.

Why did we say yes?

We don't even know this guy.

We got all this crowd, and we just felt pressured, I guess. We don't know how long they sat there and listened, but we know I love to take people fishing, because when we get out in the middle of the lake and I start talking about Jesus, you can't go nowhere.

Yeah. Right."

"So that's kind of where Jesus had these four guys, that were out here in the water, right? It's your boat, and we're in it, and you're stuck here. You're going to have to hear it.

So they heard the whole thing.

They heard the whole message.

And after he was finished teaching, he said, okay, let's launch out into the deep. Kind of a reward for them, perhaps, but he was proving a point. They launched out into the deep, and he said, okay, let down the nets.

And they said, they didn't know who Jesus was.

They might have heard of him, but what they knew for sure was he was not a fisherman. Okay?

All right?

He was not a fisherman, and here he is telling them, throw your nets out.

We just cleaned the nets.

We just got them all ready for tonight.

And they said, and they don't know why they did this either.

They don't know why they did this.

Simon finally said, okay, all right, at your word.

We're going to take you at your word.

Let's do the next one.

Again, you do something sometimes, you don't know why.”

“But God always has a plan.

God always has a purpose.

I can't tell you to this day, I can and I can't, why 40 some odd years ago, sitting in the very back of Mount Moriah Church, I got up and stepped out and came to an altar and got saved.

I do know why, but at that time, I didn't know why.

I just knew I had to go.

I just knew that's what I needed in my life, and that's what I did.

Sometimes you won't understand how come and why, but you got to do it because God said to do it, and you got to trust Him in that, okay? So, they lost out, and they caught all of these fish, so many fish, that they were afraid the boat was going to sink. And they got back to the land, and, you know, Peter realized he was in the presence of something bigger than him.”

“And he said, Lord, I'm not even worthy for you to be in my boat. And at that point, Jesus called him and Andrew and James and John and told them that you, from now on, you're going to catch me.

You're going to be fishers of men. And they did that.

And in the 12th verse, it says that the McCain capacity, when he was in a certain city, that certain city, that's Capernaum.

That's where it's at.

He's in Capernaum.

And as he's going into Capernaum, the Bible talks about a man that was full of leprosy.

He's full of leprosy.

Very seldom in the Bible do you find that description.

Full of leprosy.

It talks about lepers.

But this one, he says he was full. Why does he say that?

Because this man was like from head to toe covered in leprosy.

It's a representation of sin in our lives.

We can be covered head to toe in sin.

I was before I met Jesus.

You are if you have not met Jesus.”

“And he comes in contact with this leper. Now, something very unique about this story right here. This story is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

It's the only place where all three Gospels together in harmony record this incident.

Other Gospels record one or two. This is all three.

We're led to believe that perhaps this was the first cleansing of a leper because they all three recorded it in this man that was full of leprosy. Okay? Now, as they recorded it, that means it stood out.

It stood out because these Gospels were written many years apart. They didn't all sit down together, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and say, Hey, we're going to write this stat.

Let's write it.

There were years separated the writings of these Gospels. You need to look at it.

You need to research it.

But for them all to tell the same story the same way.

That isn't huge, folks.”

“So this is perhaps the first recorded instance of the healing of the leper, because leprosy was huge in this time. And this leper, the Bible says he fell on his face before Jesus as a sign of reverence, as a sign of, hey, I believe in this.

Again, we don't believe Jesus had ever healed a leper.

So this is a guy who had never heard about a leper being healed by Jesus, but had heard of the other miracles Jesus had done.

You understand what I was saying?

It's easy to believe when I know it's happened to somebody else. But to believe in something that's never happened before, just because you had him do other things, doesn't hold a thing, does it? And to believe that he'll do it for you is even bigger.

And you know what this guy says? He said, you can make me clean, if you will. You can.”

“And he was basing that on what he'd heard about Jesus from doing other miracles. That's what he was basing his faith on, other things he'd heard about, other cures that Jesus had done, not the one he needed. So he stood on that faith, and he said, Lord, I believe you can.

I just don't know if you will. Was that a lack of faith?

No, no, not at all.

He is solely placing his life in Christ.

If you want to, you can heal me.

If you don't, you won't.

But I'm going to ask.

The Bible says we have not because we ask, not because we need to ask.

And he believed.

He didn't know that he could do it with a leper, but he knew he did it with everything else. Back to my salvation experience.

I knew very little about Jesus when I got saved.

Very little.

I knew the Christmas story and stuff like that.

But when I made that trip down that aisle, I believed he was saved.

I didn't know that much about it.

This leper didn't know anything about lepers being healed, but he believed Jesus could heal him.

And he did.

“And he did.

And he called him, I will be thou queen.

And I love this word. Immediately.

Immediately.

Immediately.

The leper is departed from me.

You know how long it took me to get saved?

Immediately.

Immediately. When I asked Jesus to come into my heart, he did.

And he's never left, by the way.

I pushed him away a time or twelve, but he's never left me.

Okay?

All right.

And then he tells the guy, don't tell anybody.

Don't tell anybody.

Well, you know what they told me when I got saved?

Tell everybody.

Tell everybody.

And I thought, why?

Because the more you say it, the more it's real.

You realize, and I realize this more than I've ever realized this in my life. So you say something out loud, it's not really real. And then when you say it out loud, oh man, is it ever real?

Yeah. Yeah.

Well, they told me to tell everybody.

Jesus said, don't tell anybody, because he didn't want people coming for the wrong reason. What did this guy listen to?

No.”

“He couldn't hold it in.

He couldn't hold it in at all.

The Bible says in the 15th verse that the fame spread abroad and multitudes came to hear him.

And in verse number 16, it says that he withdrew himself and went up into the wilderness to pray.

To pray.

You know why?

Because he knew what was coming.

He knew what was next.

In Mark 2 and 1, and I preached on this not that long ago, and I made this point. The Bible says, and again, he entered into Capernaum.

It says that because Luke records here, he'd gone into the wilderness. And then he came back to Capernaum. Again, he entered in, and he came into a situation unlike any he'd ever faced before.

Because he's coming back into Capernaum, and he's coming in to teach, and to preach, and to heal. And there are gathered Pharisees and scribes, which came out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem. He's not just coming to the scribes and Pharisees that were in Capernaum."

"They're having like a scribe and Pharisee convention in Capernaum. They have all gathered together. And you know why they came?

To find fault with Jesus.

To find something to accuse him of.

To disface him in any way they possibly could.

So he's not just preaching to a few.

He has a multitude of scribes and Pharisees who know Jewish law backward and forward and live to debate Jewish law with one another. Well, that's what he's coming into.

And not only are they all there, there is a multitude that has come.

Because they've been hearing about it.

They heard about the leper.

They heard about all the fish that were caught.

That they see a difference in Simon and Andrew and James and John.

And they're wondering, what happened to them cranky, rough old fishermen? Man, they're all about people. Now, they got a whole new demeanor because Jesus had changed their lives.

If you are not changed after you get saved, I doubt that you got saved.

Amen.

I'll do it. Okay.

And there he comes to teach.

And all these guys are sitting there."



“And they are willing, they are willing to let Jesus preach before them, not willing to let Jesus preach to them.

Do you understand that?

They are willing to hear it, but they ain't willing to let it change it.

I mean, they got this wall up that, man, we are just looking for anything to bring him down.

They are sitting by the word.

That's what it says.

They are sitting by, the Pharisees and doctors of the law, sitting by. They are sitting by the word, but not under the word. Not under the word.

They are by it. They are just hearing it like it's a story, and they are going on with life. They are refusing to let the word change them.

They are refusing to let anything happen to them.

But Jesus said, the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

Every one of them. The power was there.

You don't hear me? I got healed that day.

Is that by Jesus' choice?

No.

He said, I was there to heal them all.

So you know this story.”

“How they brought the man that was sick of the Paul, he's paralyzed, he can't walk, they brought him in, and when they got there, they couldn't get in, they couldn't get the man to Jesus because the crowd was too large. But the crowd prevented the paralyzed man from getting to Jesus. The crowd was in the way of the man's healing, in the conventional way of getting him in front of Christ.

We're going to ask this question.

Have we ever stood in the way of someone's healing?

Have we ever been in the way of someone's healing, because, you know, we're church people, we've got to be up there close to God?

Have we ever been in the way?

Have we ever been in the way of someone's salvation, their rededication, their recommitment? Have we ever hindered someone coming to the Lord by our attitude, by our actions? Have we ever stood in the way like that?

Has our tongue ever stopped anyone from being closer to Jesus?

Caused us to stand in the way?

Has our selfishness, because we wanted to be close, ever gotten away? Has our lack of caring ever gotten away?"

"Well, I know, but I just can't care right now.

How about our lack of compassion?

Has that ever got in the way of someone coming to Jesus? How about our lack of grace and extending that grace, as Jesus told us to do? Has that ever got in the way of people getting closer to God or anything like that?

How often have we been in the way instead of making the way? More times than we ever want to admit. Now, the way this works.

God will point it out to you, Hey, man, you've been in the way. Been there and done that.

And you got two choices.

You can either get right with God and help them find the way, or preferably you just get out of the way.

Just get over out of the way. If you refuse to get it right, just get out of the way and let them come to Jesus.

Don't be part of that crowd that is hindering people from getting to Jesus, because that is exactly what happened. They brought this man, and there's a huge crowd there, all these scribes, all these Pharisees, all these quote unquote religious[...]"

"That's what the scribes of the Pharisee were. They were religious people.

I had people way back in the old days when I was working.

They'd say, you got religion, don't you?

I said, no, I got Jesus.

Because there's a difference between having Jesus or having religion.

Religion won't get you to heaven, but Jesus will.

And what you had here was a bunch of religious people standing there, blocking the way for somebody who needed to get to Jesus. Well, you know the story that took him up on the roof, and they tore the roof off, and they let him down there. And the Bible says in verse number 20, when Jesus saw their faith.

When Jesus saw their faith, the whole crowd that was blocking, no.

The scribes and the Pharisees, the religious folks, no. He saw the faith of the four.

My Bible, in any version I've ever read, never mentions where them four guys ever said a word.

They didn't have to tell him they had faith.

Jesus saw their faith.”

“Church, we need a faith that can be seen. We need a faith that can be seen by other people, lost people who don't even know anything about faith.

Now, this must did not understand what was going on, but you got to admit them four got their attention when they tore the roof off and let their friend down. When Jesus saw their faith, he looked at this man that lay before him.

He said, man, thy sins are forgiven me.

Hold up.

He comes back.

He's coming to be healed, you know?

And Jesus is talking about, you know, that's a good thing, but I really like to walk.

And when Jesus said, man, thy sins are forgiven me.

Now, you got to learn that when you read the Bible, let your imagination see the picture, okay?

I told you, there are scribes and pharisees from all over Israel gathered together in Capernaum.

And here they got a guy, this Jesus guy, they heard of him, he's got a reputations.

He's not dressed like a scribe or a Pharisee. I mean, he don't have on a suit and tie or looking good like he's supposed to be there”

“He looked like a pauper walking in, dusty, no doubt.

And when they heard this Jesus guy, they said, you're soon to forgive me.

I mean, the wheel started turning.

And I don't think they said it out loud or thinking in the mouth, we got him.

Whoo, this is blaspheming in the first degree.

He's done. This is over.

Forgive sin.

Come on.

Everybody knows God's the only one that could forgive sin. And hear this guy say, Tell this poor old lame man, that your sins are forgiven.

He is done.

Now, this next part's a little bit scary.

Verse number 22 says, Jesus knew their thoughts.

Oh, my goodness.

Yeah, whoo.

That ain't cool no more at all, is it? No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

That guy that cuts you off in traffic, you should have said, well, bless his heart.

But that's not what you're thinking.

You know, we have to convince ourselves as long as we can say bless her heart.

You say anything after that.

No, Jesus knows what we're thinking.

He just does.

Now.”

“I want you to picture in your mind Jesus knowing what they're all thinking, all these scribes and Pharisees. And I see in my mind, I, he's just looking around the room, at it.

He's just looking at it.

And I'm telling you, it's pretty quiet right now.

Because even the unchurched knew that God is the only one who could forgive sin.

I mean, come on. This guy says, you know.

And I've got to believe Jesus is looking right at them when he makes this statement. Which is easier, to forgive his sins or to have him rise up and walk.

I wasn't there, obviously, but I'm telling you, the whole room got quiet.

He's either going to be something or he's going to be nothing.

This is a card we did not expect him to play here. Which is easier?

Now, I understand there is not an answer to that question.

I can't tell you which is easier.

You can't tell me which is easier.

Either one of them reads it for Christ's sake.

Okay?

It didn't matter.”

“But what he did was to make a point, to give them something they could see, something that they had perhaps never, ever seen before.

He got all the church people in there, all the scribes and the Pharisees.

They're all there, and he asked them which is easier.

And they don't know how to answer that.

They're all trying to think how to answer that.

Jesus kind of looked at them, and nothing at all, nobody said a word, and he just went on.

Jesus said, okay, rise up and walk.

To a man paralyzed all his life, rise up and walk.

He said that you might know the son of a man have power upon earth to forgive sin.

Rise up and walk.

The man that never walked in his life rose up and walked.

It was not a process, it was not a long run out thing.

Immediately, verse 25 says, he rose up before them, took up that whereon he lay and departed to his own house.

Why do you think Jesus told him to go home?

You ever been on a trip?

You enjoyed your trip?”

“But when you got home, and you walked into your house, and you smiled, oh, I have.

And I enjoy going.

Man, I love coming on trips.

You just walk in, and it's the same place you were so in, in a hurry to leave, a week, ten days before, but you walk in, and you just smile.

But man, there's nothing like home.

This guy got to walk into his house.

I'm telling you, he smiled, because he's never done it before.

He's never been able to do it before.

But Jesus said, take up your garment, your bedroll, and go to your own house.

And I've preached all this to get to this last verse, verse number 26.

The Bible says they were all amazed, amazed.

You know why?

Because they've never seen anything like this before.

Never.

Jesus had just given them the proof that He was exactly who He said He was.

There was no more debate.

There was no more questioning.

There was no more wondering.

They were no longer able to claim Jesus was a blasphemer.

He proved it to them.

They watched it happen.

The Bible says they glorified God.”

“They were filled with fear.

That fear they're talking about, they're not afraid. That's a reverence.

That's a reverence.

Now, some of them may have been a little bit afraid of how they treated Jesus before, but for the most part, they're talking about a reverence, a reverence of God. They were in awe of what God endured.

And then, they said this, and this is the thing that I have never, ever caught before.

We have seen strange things today. We have seen strange things today.

If you were here and visiting, you might have seen some strange things this morning.

Getting up and coming up here to an altar.

All the scenes going on.

The priest is getting up in the middle of the storm.

Where is the water at?

His hands are not mine.

I thank God it is.

You know, we started off singing that song that had that big, long hallelujah in it. I will never, ever in my life forget the first time that word come out of my mouth. I was down with Amen.

I had that one.

I was good with that one.”

“This little hallelujah thing, that's three-fourth syllable word.

It's a long word.

It doesn't just roll off like Amen.

Hallelu-Yah.

That's like four or five. I don't know.

It's a bunch. I remember when I said it, and I thought, whoo, it felt strange.

It doesn't anymore.

It doesn't anymore.

We've seen some strange things.

Assuming, we're at that in the Bible, that God said, I will always do things in a conventional way. I will always do things in a way that you think they should be done.

And I will show you over and over and over what God did at His way, because it was the best way and the right way.

And people will even say, hey, man, we've seen some strange things. Well, get used to it. Get used to it.

It's okay.

I am slowly learning. Just because it doesn't make sense to me doesn't mean God's all in it. It means God's all over it.

And until it gets out of my hands, how do I know God's even in it then?”

“Until it gets bigger than us, you can't even see God in it. And when it gets bigger than us, you'll see God all over it. They said, we have seen strange things.

Now, they glorified God.

They were amazed. They were in reverence of God. They were in awe.

But they said, hey, you know, we've seen some strange things today.

This word strange.

Again, I wasn't written in King James English.

New Testament's written in Greek and Aramaic.

The Greek word for strange and it's like other Greek words.

There's three or four different usages for this strange.

You know, the Bible talks about the syllabus went into a strange land.

It's different than this strange, okay?

But this one is from a Greek word, paradoxos.

It's where we get our English word paradox. Paradox.

Now, the Greek word means contrary to expectation.

And man, this was.

Nobody expected this paralyzed man to get up and walk out.

Let alone carry his bed with him when he went.

Nobody, other than his four friends.

They had faith it could be soon.

A paradox in the English definition is an assertion or proposition which seems absurd.”

“Yet, is in fact true.

That's what a paradox is.

Something that seems so totally off the wall, it couldn't be true, but yet it is.

You want me to tell you a paradox?

How you can walk into a church lost, and walk out of it saved.

You look the same on the outside, walking in as walking out, but you're different. Why?  
Because of what happened inside you.

What the change did Jesus make?

The healing that you received through the power of Almighty God for the forgiveness of sins. I remember it like it was just a little while ago, and it was a strange thing for me, because I know who I was, and all of a sudden I wasn't who I used to be.

Thank God I wasn't who I used to be.

And I'm telling all my friends, and they're all like, what? I don't, I can't tell you how many times I heard, wonder how long this is going to last.

More than 44 years. I can tell you how long this will last.



And I have never one time wanted to go back.

Never.

Has it been all walking the park in[...]"

"No way, no.

No way, no.

I'm winding up, Kurt.

What had they seen that day? What had they seen?

They'd seen a paralyzed man brought in by four friends who couldn't get to Jesus because of the crowd.

They saw four guys open up a roof and lower their friend down before Jesus.

They saw Jesus' college, all the religious people in there, all the learned of the Lord.

The ones who thought they had all the answers, they saw that same paralyzed man who they'd let down through the roof.

Rise up, walk out of there, heal, and hold.

May it witness the healing power of Jesus Christ, both physically and spiritually.

Well, every day, every minute.

They were all amazed.

They glorified God.

They were filled with reverence.

And they said, we have seen some strange things today!

Stand with me.