



# HOPE for everyone.

## Want To Go Deeper? - Week 1

### Historical Context

Mark 2 is a significant chapter in the Gospel of Mark, and understanding its historical context can enhance our comprehension of the events and teachings it contains. Here are some key points:

1. **Capernaum as a Hub:** Capernaum, where the events of Mark 2 take place, was a significant town in Galilee during Jesus' time. It served as a central hub for Jesus' ministry. The town was located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee and was a bustling fishing village and trade center. It was also the home of several of Jesus' disciples, including Peter, Andrew, James, and John.
2. **Cultural and Religious Context:** The Jewish religious leaders, such as the Pharisees and teachers of the law, played a significant role in the society of the time. They were often in conflict with Jesus because of His teachings and actions, which challenged their interpretations of the Law and their authority. In Mark 2, we see this tension when Jesus forgives the sins of the paralyzed man, which the religious leaders consider blasphemous because only God can forgive sins.
3. **Social Norms and Beliefs:** The belief in karma-like principles, where physical ailments were often seen as a result of personal sin, was prevalent. This is evident in the reaction to Jesus' healing of the paralyzed man, where the forgiveness of sins is linked to physical healing. Jesus challenges this belief by addressing the man's spiritual need first, demonstrating His authority to forgive sins.

4. **Architecture and Daily Life:** The description of the house with a roof made of mud, animal fat, and manure reflects the typical construction methods of the time. Roofs were often used as additional living space, and the act of digging through the roof to lower the paralyzed man to Jesus illustrates both the determination of the man's friends and the physical structure of homes in that era.
5. **Jesus' Authority and Identity:** Mark 2 highlights Jesus' authority not only to heal but also to forgive sins, which is a direct claim to His divine identity. This is a pivotal moment in the Gospel, as it sets the stage for the growing opposition from religious leaders and underscores the central theme of Jesus as the Son of God.

Understanding these historical and cultural contexts helps us grasp the significance of the events in Mark 2 and the radical nature of Jesus' ministry during His time.

## Word Study

**elpis:** Hope

Original Word: **ἐλπίς**

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: elpis

Pronunciation: el-pece'

Phonetic Spelling: (el-pece')

KJV: faith, hope

NASB: hope, hopes

Word Origin: [from a primary elpo "to anticipate, usually with pleasure"]

1. expectation
2. (abstractly or concretely) confidence

## Deeper Application

**Active engagement in God's movement and the personal responsibility each believer has in bringing hope for everyone.**

1. **Personal Involvement:** The sermon challenges individuals to move from a mindset of "they" to "we," encouraging everyone to see themselves as integral parts of the church's mission. This involves taking ownership of the church's vision and actively contributing to its realization through prayer, service, and generosity.
2. **Sacrificial Living:** Reflecting on the sacrifices made by previous generations, the sermon calls for a willingness to step out of comfort zones and make personal sacrifices for the sake of the gospel. This could mean giving time, resources, or talents to further the church's mission and reach those who are far from God.
3. **Intentional Outreach:** The story of the four friends who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus serves as a powerful illustration of the lengths we should go to bring others to Christ. It challenges believers to identify their "Everyone"—those in their lives who need hope—and to take intentional steps to connect them with Jesus, even if it means overcoming obstacles or breaking social norms.

4. **Faith in Action:** The sermon encourages believers to pray the prayer, "God, what do You want to do through me?" This is a call to seek God's guidance and be open to His leading in how we can contribute to His work. It emphasizes that faith is not just about belief but about action—being willing to be used by God in tangible ways.
5. **Creating Space for Others:** The practical aspect of expanding physical space in the church is a metaphor for making room in our lives and communities for others to encounter Jesus. It challenges us to consider how we can create environments—both physically and relationally—where people feel welcomed and can experience the transformative power of the gospel.

## Challenge

Imagine a world where every person you encounter knows that they are loved, valued, and have a place in the family of God. Imagine a church that is not just a building, but a beacon of hope, a refuge for the weary, and a place where lives are transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. This is the vision we are called to pursue, and it requires each of us to step up and say, "I am all in."

1. **Identify Your "Everyone":** Who in your life needs the hope that only Jesus can provide? Write down their names, pray for them daily, and ask God to open doors for you to share His love with them. Be intentional in your relationships, looking for opportunities to invite them into the community of faith.
2. **Engage Actively:** Move from being a spectator to a participant in the life of our church. Whether it's joining a small group, serving in a ministry, or using your unique gifts to bless others, find your place in the body of Christ and contribute to the mission of connecting people back to God.
3. **Embrace Sacrifice:** Reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us and consider what God might be asking you to give for the sake of His kingdom. Whether it's your time, resources, or talents, be willing to step out in faith and invest in the eternal work God is doing through our church.
4. **Pray Boldly:** Commit to praying the prayer, "God, what do You want to do through me?" with an open heart and a willingness to follow wherever He leads. Trust that God can do extraordinary things through ordinary people who are fully surrendered to Him.
5. **Create Space for Others:** As we work to expand our physical space, let us also expand our hearts and lives to make room for others. Be a welcoming presence, a listening ear, and a source of encouragement to those who walk through our doors seeking hope and healing.

This is not just a call to action; it's an invitation to be part of a movement that is bigger than any one of us—a movement that has the power to change lives and impact generations. Let us rise to the challenge, united in purpose and passion, as we bring hope to everyone. Together, let's be the church that God has called us to be.