

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Mark continues a series called "The Jesus Filter," focusing on how Jesus approached interruptions during His earthly ministry. Drawing from Mark chapter 2, he walks through the story of four friends who lowered a paralyzed man through a roof to get him in front of Jesus. Rather than being annoyed by the disruption, Jesus saw their faith and responded with both forgiveness and physical healing. The core message is that Jesus consistently said yes to the very interruptions and people that most of us are inclined to filter out. Pastor Mark introduces the Greek concept of "kairos" (appointed moments) to help us recognize that God's moments are often disguised as interruptions. He offers three filter questions drawn from Jesus' example: Is this a person most people would say no to? Is there something hard that needs to be said or done? And is God doing something right now? The practical challenge for the week is simple: say yes to at least one interruption you would normally avoid, trusting that the Holy Spirit will work through it.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to filter our lives the way Jesus did, we ask that You quiet our busy minds and soften our hearts. Help us to set aside our own agendas and be truly open to what You want to speak to each of us today. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see the kairos moments You have placed in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is the most unexpected or random interruption you have experienced recently, and how did you respond to it?

Key Verses

- Mark 2:1-4
- Mark 2:5
- Mark 2:6-7

- Mark 2:10-12

Questions

- Pastor Mark describes how Jesus regularly said yes to people that others would overlook or dismiss. Can you think of a time when you felt overlooked or dismissed, and what did it mean to you when someone chose to stop and pay attention to you?
- The four friends were so determined to get their paralyzed companion to Jesus that they tore open a roof to do it. What does their boldness say about the kind of faith Jesus responds to, and who in your life might need that kind of persistent, active faith from you?
- Jesus saw the faith of the friends rather than focusing on the mess or the disruption. How does this challenge the way you typically evaluate inconvenient or chaotic situations in your own life?
- Pastor Mark points out that Jesus filtered for people who were falling apart, while the religious leaders filtered for people who had it all together. In what ways do you find yourself gravitating toward people who are already put together, and what might it look like to intentionally move toward those who are struggling?
- The sermon introduces the idea of kairos moments, appointed times that are on God's calendar even when they are not on yours. Can you recall a time when what felt like an interruption turned out to be a meaningful, God-arranged moment?
- Pastor Mark suggests that some of the most teachable moments come through interruptions, but we often avoid them because they require emotional energy. What uncomfortable conversation or situation have you been putting off, and what might God want to do through it?
- Jesus used the interruption of the paralyzed man being lowered through the roof not just to heal Him physically, but to reveal something deeper about who He is. How can you be more intentional about allowing interruptions in your life to become opportunities to point others toward Jesus?
- The challenge this week is to say yes to one interruption you would normally avoid. What is one specific interruption, whether expected or unexpected, that you sense God might be calling you to lean into this week?

Life Application

This week, commit to saying yes to at least one interruption you would normally avoid. It might be an unanswered text from someone who needs your time, a difficult conversation you have been putting off, or an unexpected moment with a family member, neighbor, or coworker. When that interruption comes, pause and ask the Holy Spirit: "Is this a kairos moment? Is God doing something right now?" Then step in with whatever time, energy, or words you have, trusting that God will work through your willingness.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus consistently filtered in the very interruptions and people that most of us are inclined to filter out, seeing them as divine appointments rather than inconveniences.
- The faith of the four friends who lowered the paralyzed man through the roof demonstrates that bold, audacious, whatever-it-takes faith is something Jesus deeply values and responds to.
- There is a difference between chronos (the sequential passing of time) and kairos (appointed moments of opportunity). God moments are often disguised as interruptions, and learning to recognize the difference changes how we respond.
- Jesus filtered for people who were falling apart and in need, while the religious leaders filtered for people who were worthy or put together. Following Jesus means intentionally making room for those who are broken or overlooked.
- Participating in kairos moments requires trusting God with your schedule and agenda, because the interruption in front of you may be the most important work He has for you in that moment.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together and for the reminder that You are always at work, even in the moments that feel like chaos or inconvenience. Forgive us for the times we have filtered out the very people and moments You were placing in our path. As we leave today, give us spiritual eyes to recognize kairos moments and the courage to step into them. Help us to hold our schedules loosely, to love people the way You loved them, and to trust that when we

say yes to Your interruptions, You will provide everything we need. May our lives look a little more like Yours this week. In Your name we pray, amen.