

YOU'RE
NOT
FAR

The text is written in a bold, hand-drawn, black font. The words 'YOU'RE', 'NOT', and 'FAR' are stacked vertically. A horizontal arrow is drawn underneath the word 'NOT', pointing to the right.

Week 2: Unsettling

Jesus ignored certain religious protocols. He claimed to have authority to forgive sin. He was uncomfortably comfortable with unrepentant sinners. In this message, we hear about three encounters that showed Jesus came to reverse the order of things.

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the term “faith” in a religious context, what do you assume it means?
2. **Read Mark 2:2–5.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - What did Jesus see that he equated with faith?
3. We’ve all had unanswered prayers. Have you ever been blamed or blamed yourself for not having enough faith?
4. **Read Mark 1:38–45.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - Look at verses **39–40**. How much faith did the leper have? Apparently, it was enough.
5. **Read Mark 2:13–14.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - Given that Levi was probably viewed as corrupt, how would Jesus’s inner circle have felt when Jesus invited Levi into their group?
 - What lessons can we learn from Jesus’s invitation to Levi?

Changing Your Mind

Jesus demonstrated and said that God accepts sinners and invites them into a new kind of kingdom. As a result, Jesus followers were faced with a choice: Do we walk away and save our reputation, or do we repent and believe the good news? Mark, documenting Peter's experience with Jesus, tells us that this new way would continue to collide with Peter’s way. He would have to face fear, insecurity, and prejudice head-on. We must do the same.

The kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.