***Outside The Box Series - Lesson 2 of 8***

**Outside The Box Evangelism**

**Observers or Participants? -** Jesus had come back to Capernaum, and everyone knew it.

The scripture records that the house where He was staying – ***was packed with people***. ***Everyone*** had come to see this man **who could work miracles**.

**Jesus *received them*** and began to **teach them** the **Word of God**. He was cut short mid-sentence and *confronted with a needy man* and *four determined friends*.

***The four men had cut a hole in the roof*** *above Jesus* and then lowered their paralyzed friend down on his mat right in front of Him.

***It was the only way they could get their friend to Jesus*** for a miraculous healing.

**Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man**

**1** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2** They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3**Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

**4**Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5**When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, ***“Son, your sins are forgiven.”***

**6**Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7**“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

**8**Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? **9**Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man**, *‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?***

**10**But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, **11*“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”*12**He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, **“We have never seen anything like this!”**

* ***Jesus told the paralyzed man,*** **“Son, your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5).**

Immediately, this phrase ***divided those who were there into two groups***, those who had ***come just to hear*** what Jesus had to say, and ***those who believed in Jesus*** as the Son of God and became participants in the Kingdom of God.

***The religious teachers*** of the law who heard Jesus’ statement ***were disturbed***. They said nothing, but in their hearts, they condemned Jesus for claiming to forgive sins – claiming to take on the very role of God.

* ***(Mark 2:8)*** Jesus asked them, ***“Why do you reason about these things in your heart?”***

And then, **to display His power over sin**, *He healed the paralyzed man*, who was *able to walk out through the crowd*.

**A miracle like this,** though, **could not convince the religious leaders** that Jesus came to bring the Kingdom of God to all people.

**They observed, but never participated.**

**The four friends who had heard about Jesus stepped forward in Faith.**

* They became **active participants** in the Kingdom of God bringing their friend to Jesus for a miracle.
* And *Jesus’ power was released –* ***not to the religious observers present***, but *to the desperate man* who *took a step of faith*, ***even before he could walk***.

**The contrast was clear.**

* The religious had *shown up early* to find room in the house.
* *The four men and their paralyzed friend* **showed up late and sought a way to come before Jesus.**

**The religious leaders** were in the room with Jesus, quietly *scrutinizing His words*.

***The four men*** *exercised extreme trust* by ***seeking access to Jesus*** through the roof.

**The religious were polite and held their dignity.**

***The four men interrupted the service*** and damaged the house ***in their haste to get their friend to Jesus.***

* **The religious** had come for a show.
* **The friend** had come for help.
* **The paralyzed man** was freed from his guilt and disease.
* **The religious** felt no need for Jesus.
* The **once – paralyzed** man walked away free.
* ***The religious left*** still paralyzed by their own guilt.

***Only when the desperate showed up* and disrupted the service was the power of the Kingdom released.**

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**“Whatever it takes to show people who Jesus is…”**

**Jesus was unconventional**

An **Outside the Box Church** is **a church that is willing** to do whatever it needs to do **to reach its communities** **with *the Gospel* of Jesus Christ**.

* **There was nothing** *common*…There was nothing *usual*…There was nothing *traditional* **about Jesus.**

***And there was nothing*** Common, Usual, or traditional about the Church ***His ministry produced.***

* *His church* was **Outside The Box**.
* The religious world thought ***they were nuts***. They thought ***they were drunk***.

***They were so different*** than the rest of the religious world that ***the religious leaders wanted them killed.***

When you look at ***the life and ministry of Jesus*** Christ, you see very quickly that ***His ministry*** was an **“Outside the box” ministry.**

* *His very birth* was completely unconventional. – **Virgin birth**
* *His Childhood* was unusual. – 12 yrs. old **Teaching in the synagogue**
* *The choosing of His disciples* was completely off. – Fishermen, Tax collectors, Publicans.
* *Many other miracles* so strange, many ***never believed*** they happen.
* *The religious people of His day* thought him so ***unorthodox and so eccentric*** in His ministry that **they hated him** – so much that *they wanted to kill him*.

**I’ve heard churches asking** *how we get our church* outside ***these 4 walls***.

* If there ever was ***a generation that needed reached***, it’s this one.
* If there ever was ***a generation that was harder to reach*** *with traditional means*, it’s this one.
* I wonder **if we really mean it** when we talk about ***getting our church Outside The Box***.
* It sounds **visionary,** It sounds **evangelistic,** It sounds like **what we should be saying**…
* **But do we really know** what things would look like around here if it happened?

**How do we get outside the box? Well, what is the box?** (We talked about it last week.)

* *Traditional mindsets* - *Comfort zones* – *History* - *Generational boundaries*
* **We are controlled by our thinking.**
* ***“It’s never been done that way before”*** mentality.

***If*** we are going to take this thing ***Out Of The Box***, in order ***to evangelize our city***, we are going to have to ***let go of some of the Traditional Mindsets*** that we have.

* Our last revival 20 years ago ***cannot define where we are going***.
* We must get *a new mindset*.
* ***“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”***
* **We must** let go of our own thinking and get ahold of His thinking.

**We’re going to have to get out of our comfort zone.**

* We’re going to have to ***stretch ourselves*** and **get involved** like we’ve never been before.
* **That’s us** *corporately* and you as an *individual*.
* ***The individuals of this church*** *make up the corporate church* and ***if you or I am not willing*** to ***get out of our comfort zone***, *we never will* reach this city.
* **We’re going to have to** go to work.
* We’re going to have to get busy.
* We’re going to have to make something happen around here.

**How many of you are ready for a new way of thinking?**

* **How many have grown tired** of *empty chairs* and an *empty altar*?
* I **don’t** know about you, but ***I’m ready to go to work***.
* I’m **ready** to do what I must do to see some of *my neighbors* and *my family* **saved.**
* **I believe God wants more** *for this church* and *from this church*.
* **For that to happen,** we are going to have to **start thinking differently**.

**My Church *cannot* be a traditional church.**

**We have a message to proclaim to the generation,** *the communities* we live in, and that is that ***Jesus Christ loves them***.

***I get excited*** *sometimes when I think about what it would be like* ***to live in a community*** *that has been* ***evangelized*** *with* ***the Gospel of Jesus*** *Christ.*

**Evangelism = Introduce People To Jesus**

**I am convinced that the help and encouragement that my friends, neighbors, and family need today, can be found in having a relationship with Jesus Christ.**

* **Sharing Jesus** with them is something that should come easy.
* **Sharing Jesus** with them is something that I should enjoy doing.
* **Sharing my faith** is something that should come naturally.
* ***No effort. No struggle***
* There might be **something wrong with our faith if** *we’re ashamed to tell people* **about Jesus.**
* We might need to **find an altar of repentance** *if we find it hard to tell* them **of His love**.

**If you were** a scientist or a doctor **who *found a cure* for cancer**, **would you *share it with the rest of the world*?**

When you *heard* that they had a loved one who was dying of that terrible disease, **wouldn’t you *speak up*** and say, ***“Hey, I have the cure for that!”?***

* **Sure, you would!**

*You might even start* ***going door to door*** in your neighborhood ***telling everyone you could*** that if they had a loved one who had cancer, ***you had the cure*** for it.

And ***it wouldn’t take long*** before some people *started* ***seeking you*** *out* **to find out *what you had*** that could do so much good.

**This is our *attitude* here!**

* We’ve got an answer! We’ve got a solution!
* **We’ve found something** that the world needs to know about!
* ***His name is Jesus***!!!
* **He can give them** *meaning and direction* for their life.
* **He can** *heal* their marriage.
* **He can** *deliver* them from their addictions.
* **He can** set them free from *the bondages* in the despair and hopelessness **that *surrounds* their life.**
* **He can fill them** with *His Holy Spirit*.

***Outside the Box Evangelism - What’s it going to take to get the message of a Great God into our communities?***

At **My Church**, we’re going to ***take the roof off*** this thing.

* There are no limits
* There are no boundaries
* There is no place **we won't go** if the Spirit tells us to
* There is no method **we won’t use** to get this message out.
* **We believe that God will use** *anybody and everybody* ***who will allow God to use them.***

In the scriptures, I find ***Jesus using just about every kind of person*** you can imagine to get **His message across**.

* **He used everybody** ***who wanted to be a part of*** His ministry.
* **He used** much-hated *tax collectors*. He used a man *possessed with devils*
* **He used** *Children -* He used a *5 - time divorcee*
* **He used** *blind people -* He used *deaf people -* He used *sick people -* He used a *dead man*

**Now first he had to** heal them and deliver them and redeem them, **but after He did**, they started telling everybody they knew about ***the wonderful man who met the tremendous need*** in their life.

**You name it – *He used it*.**

**Jesus’s mission was clear to Him.**

* He ***did not question*** what it was that He was going to do.
* ***He did it without*** wavering.

**His mission** was *to minister to* and *bring into ministry* **as *many people as he could*** in the short 3.5 years ***His ministry had on this Earth.***

***CLOSE: Understand something, God wants to use you.***

* **He wants to use** what He’s blessed you with.
* He wants to use your time
* He wants to use your talents
* **He has given you** the breath that you have in your lungs right now ***to evangelize this world.***

**This church will never reach this community if we do what we see everybody else doing.**

**We will not reach our world if** we sit back and wait for someone else to tell them about Jesus.

* **We’ve got something** to get excited about
* **We’ve got a message** our community needs to hear.
* **We’ve got something** that is changing lives and ***who are we to sit on this miracle*** and **not share it** with someone else?

**We’ve got a message:**

* **Jesus cares!**
* **Jesus loves you!**
* **Jesus wants to help you!**
* **Jesus can set you free!**

**An Outside The Box Church doesn’t sit on the best-kept secret in town.**

* An **Outside The Box Church** *want’s to share what it has* with its communities.
* **Like the woman at the well,** *they want to tell their city* about **the Man who spoke healing and hope** into their life.

**Have you ever told somebody about *a good restaurant*?**

**How about a good place *to get your car repaired*?**

**Why is it that some people will brag about** *the best restaurant* to go eat at, but **when it comes to telling people about** *the best church to go to*, ***they clam up?***

Hey, **we’re taking this thing out of the box!**

**We’re *telling people*** that **My Church** is the greatest thing on the planet.

How many of you **really believe** that our community ***needs to hear*** this message?

**Let’s figure out *what* it’s going to take** *to tell people about this amazing God that we serve* and *this church* **that we all worship Him at!**

**Let’s get it out of the box! -** **Observers or Participants?**

* ***The religious* had come for a show.** ***The friends* had come for help.**
* ***The paralyzed man was freed from his guilt and disease.***
* **The religious felt no need for Jesus.**
* The once – paralyzed man ***walked away free.***
* The religious left ***still paralyzed by their own guilt***.

**Only when the desperate showed up and disrupted the service was the power of the Kingdom released.**

**Jesus set a man completely free from the control of sin, guilt, and disease.**

How often are *we among the religious*, politely attending the service and **never participating in the Kindom of God?**

**Is it time to disrupt the order of worship?**