

Mark 2:1-12

I. Who You Gonna Call? Ghostbusters (1984)

A. Unforgettable taglines and jingles

1. Never saw the movie, but the tagline from the soundtrack was everywhere!
2. Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters

B. Premise:

1. **When you have a problem beyond your ability to resolve, who you call for help matters most!**
2. **What matters most is who you turn to find what matters most!**
 - a. With the world in global in economic insecurity as a result of the COVID pandemic
 - b. With the nation reeling from unprecedented civil unrest
 - c. With our personal lives crippled by anxiety, fear, anger, and grief
 - d. With our hearts burdened by sin and guilt and shame
3. **At a time like this, Mark says, under these conditions, who you turn to for help matters most.**
 - a. Mark asks, “Where will you turn with your need in this hour?”
 - b. Mark asks, “Where will you lead others to turn in their need?”
 - (1) Who you gonna call?
 - (2) The answer he anticipates is Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.

II. Come to Jesus

A. The Account

1. Jesus returned to Capernaum
 - a. Had been forced to retreat to desolate places
 - b. Crowds still sought him out
 - c. Back in Capernaum, the crowds still come
 - (1) Again, they are not looking for him personally
 - (2) They are looking for a show, a miracle, a performance
2. Four men come bringing a fifth, a paralyzed man on a stretcher
 - a. Can't get in
 - b. Lower the man through the roof
 - c. Jesus heals the man
 - d. Leaves carrying the bed that carried him
3. For all the glory of the moment, the healing of the paralytic man is not the point.

B. The Players in the Drama

1. The incidentals
 - a. The standing room only audience -
 - (1) at the end of the day they get to witness a miracle and they still don't get the point.
 - (2) Amazed and give glory to God but still exhibit no personal faith in Jesus, who he is, and what his mission among them

- means for them personally
 - (3) Like many people
 - (a) they “believe in God” and are willing to assign God some role in supernatural events, but are not drawn into a personal relationship with Jesus
 - (b) They are still merely observers not participants
 - b. **The paralytic and his four friends**
 - (1) Their need and their faith are not unimportant, but they could be anyone
 - (2) They represent the cultural, spiritual, physical needs of the lost world
 - (a) Everyone in that room needed what they needed
 - (b) Everyone watching online at this moment needs what they needed
 - (c) Everyone at every place and time in the history of the world, past, present, future needs what they needed.
 - (3) They represent the universal condition of the human experience:
 - (a) a need we cannot resolve on our own.
 - (b) served by one of the two primaries
2. The primaries: Jesus and the Scribes
- a. **The Scribes**
 - (1) Presumed role
 - (a) are the cultural database of the day
 - (b) cultural right and wrong
 - (c) knew the word and were the ones to whom people turned for help and answers
 - (2) Practical role
 - (a) Kept the people enslaved to laws that separated them from God (leper)
 - (b) Resisted the evidence that God Himself was present among His people for His glory and their joy.
 - i) Jesus speaks to the paralyzed man and says to him with tenderness and authority and power, **“My son, your sins are forgiven.”**
 - ii) v. 6-7 **“Why does this man speak like that. He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”**
 - iii) Know that God alone forgives sin (not even the Messiah has that privilege)
 - iv) Understand that Jesus not only heals the man but lays claim to being God
 - v) Response:
 - a) By the end of this series of five

challenges

- b) They begin to collaborate to destroy Jesus

b. Jesus: The primary person in this drama, the One you've gotta call, the One who matters most.

(1) Mark's message is clear. The message for us is clear:

- (a) No matter what condition your life is in,
- (b) no matter what opposition you may encounter,
- (c) your very best plan of action is to abandon everything else and come, in faith, to Jesus.

(2) Why?

(a) Because Jesus is God come in human flesh

i) ***“So that you may that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”***

ii) Jesus declares He is God, having the authority and privilege of God to remove the guilt and condemnation of sin

iii) ***Philippians 2:6-8 (ESV) ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

(b) Because in Christ God offers a response to our need we cannot expect nor find in the world

- i) Acceptance
- ii) Authority
- iii) Opportunity

(c) Because Jesus goes beyond what we present to what we really need: reconciliation with God

- i) The leper
- ii) The woman with the issue of blood
- iii) The woman caught in adultery
- iv) The paralytic

(d) Because Jesus answers the two most critical questions every human being ask:

- i) Can I be forgiven of my sins and gain a clear conscience before my Creator?
- ii) Who will forgive my sins?
- iii) Jesus answers the question, “Who will I call about what matters most?”

- (e) Because Jesus offers the spiritual transformation lost sinners need most
 - i) By His death on the cross He delivers us from the penalty of sin: *justification*.
 - ii) By His sinless life and through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit He delivers us from the power of sin: *sanctification*.
 - iii) By His resurrection, and through the power of the Spirit and the promise of the word, He delivers us, finally, from the presence of sin: *glorification*.
- (f) **Because what matters most is who you turn to to find what matters most.**

III. What matters most

A. What matters most is who you turn to to find what matters most.

1. Mark:
 - a. The One you should turn to is Jesus
 - b. Come, in your need, whatever it is, to Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God
2. Come
 - a. In faith
 - (1) **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
 - (2) **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 - b. In total surrender and commitment
 - (1) **Luke 14:25-33 (ESV)** ²⁵ *Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

²⁸ *For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,*

³⁰ *saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'* ³¹ *Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes*

against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

- (2) **Let nothing stand in the way of gaining what matters most: the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.**