



Message Discussion Guide Week of February 18, 2024

Message: Power Surge, Part 4: Shock & Awe

Key Scriptures: [Mark 2:1-12](#)

Preachers: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

Two famous technology moguls express an undeniable truth: the world is a broken place.

- They express the hope that through advances in technology, we can fix what's broken in the world.
- Despite optimism about what technology can do, technology will not fix a broken world. The same technology that can cure ills can also cause them.

We do not have a technological problem; we have a sin problem.

- At root, all the problems the world faces find their root in sin.
- Sin is the creation refusing to submit to the will of the creator.
 - Individually, sin separates people from God.
 - Globally, sin infects God's creation with disorder, decay, and death.
- Jesus' mission is to deal with the sin problem. A world without sin is a world where there are no problems.

When Jesus is presented with a paralyzed man in Mark 2, he responds by dealing with his sin problem before he deals with his physical problem.

- Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus claims this authority.
- He heals the paralyzed man as evidence that he has authority to forgive sins.
- If only God can forgive sins, and if Jesus proves that he can forgive sins, then that means Jesus is God!

When Jesus went to the cross, he dealt with our sin problem once and for all. Jesus is the answer to every challenge we face.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Pastor Tom said that our culture is currently looking to technology to solve the world's problems. Where do you see technology doing good in the world? Where do you see technology contributing to the world's problems?
- 2.) What is sin? How does sin impact you individually? How does sin impact the world?

- 3.) What is the relationship between sin and physical illness/disability? Are illness/disability the result of individual sin? What does it mean to say sin is the reason that our bodies break down and don't work properly?
- 4.) Read [Mark 2:1-12](#)
 - a. Why is Jesus' ministry so popular?
 - b. Why do the four friends go to such lengths to bring their friend to Jesus? What can we learn from these four friends?
 - c. Why does Jesus forgive the paralyzed man's sins first? Is he implying that his sins are the reason he is paralyzed?
 - d. Are the teachers of the law wrong in their thinking?
 - e. What does it mean that Jesus is able to reach the inner thoughts of the teachers of the law?
 - f. If only God can forgive sins and Jesus proves that he can forgive sins, then what does that say about Jesus?
- 5.) Is Jesus really the answer to every problem we face in the world? If so, what would it look like for the world to look to Jesus for answers?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?