

**SPEAKER:** James Teutschmann

**DATE:** February 22, 2026

**SERIES TITLE:** Defining Moments

## **Sermon Title**

### **AUTHORITY**

## **Introduction**

This week, we started a new series that will take us from now until Easter called **Defining Moments**. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, we see story after story of ordinary people encountering Jesus and having to make real, everyday decisions about who Jesus is and what He calls them to. These moments **define** these people, as their lives get changed when they encounter the King. Through this series, we are going to be unpacking these **Defining Moments** in the Gospel of Mark and how our own **Defining Moments** with Jesus shape our lives today.

**Seek the Word:** Before discussing this week's questions, read through Mark 2:23-3:6 out loud as a group. What stands out to you from this passage?

### **Authority**

*How do you define what authority is worth following, and which authority is worth rejecting? How has that definition informed your view of God?*

- We lean into Jesus by replacing PRIDE with SURRENDER
  - What religious “check-lists” have you felt you had to accomplish in order to appear pleasing to God?
  - What does a posture of surrender look like to you practically? How does that differ from how you express pride?
- We lean into Jesus by replacing TRADITION with MISSION
  - How rigid do you hold to your faith/Christian traditions (what clothes to wear to church, worship style, Bible translations)? How do these traditions impact how you interact with God and His Church?
  - How difficult is it for you to sacrifice tradition for the sake of loving somebody else? What impulses do you have to ignore in order to show love to somebody outside of your traditions?
- We lean into Jesus by replacing ACHIEVING with RECEIVING
  - What goes through your mind when you decide to go (or not go) to church? What is your motivation?
  - Why is trying to achieve salvation so tempting? Why do we struggle sometimes with simply receiving Jesus?
- We lean into Jesus by replacing MY VIEW with YOU
  - How do you discern what are your thoughts and what are God's thoughts?
  - What steps can you take this week to center yourself on God's ways and not your own?

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* **Jesus doesn't want us to be in a religion, He wants us to be in relationship with Him.** When we strive to just pursue religious righthood, and hold to a standard of perfection that we can never attain, we miss out on what God truly wants for us. We have to grow into a people who see God not as a rule-setter but as a life-changer. Someone who wants us to submit to His authority not out of fear, but out of love. This is done when we understand who Jesus is, what He did, and what He calls us into. A **defining moment** with Jesus can alter our perception of what faith truly means, and can invite us to lean into a relationship with our Lord and Savior that changes us forever.

### *Challenge:* Understanding Authority

Throughout this week, take some time to read through these passages of Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 2:23-3:6; and Philippians 2:9-11. Make some notes on what these (and other passages your group might know of) say about the authority Jesus has and how He wants us to engage with Him. Then, look for ways in which God is calling you to follow Jesus' authority this week and see what happens when we let Jesus lead the way.

*Prayer:* Close your time together praying for each other as you enter into the week ahead. Lift up any worries, concerns, stresses, requests, and petitions that you have to God. Ask that He move in powerful ways to address those things, trusting that He is sovereign and in control over all of them. Ask God to present each of you with a **defining moment** this week that would draw you closer in relationship with Him, and that through those moments others would be able to see who God is and the love that He has.