

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Word of Witness Video?</b>	Yes
<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	Yes
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	There are no graphics during the sermon.
<b>Other Notes</b>	At the 8:30 service, please display the graphics for the opening chorus when the choir sings. There is a video to play as the congregation is receiving communion.

### Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

#### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon is about the revolutionary teachings of Jesus and how we God's grace enables us to live them.



#### ***Why is this sermon important?***

This sermon is important because it is easy to dilute the call to discipleship which Jesus offers and ignore the revolutionary aspects of Jesus' teaching.

#### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

This is the second sermon in the Renegade Gospel series – developed using *The Renegade Gospel*<sup>1</sup> by Mike Slaughter as a guide. It will be delivered in some form on the Sunday with the most snow of any this winter.

#### ***What are the next action steps?***

Pull out your Bible and choose just one of the Gospels and read Jesus' words.

#### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

The good news is that Jesus offers forgiveness and mercy which enables us to live the unconventional life of a disciple.

#### ***Metadata***

1. Topic(s)
  1. Grow
  2. Changing Lives
  3. Sharing Christ
  4. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible

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<sup>1</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014)

2nd Sunday in Lent  
Renegade Gospel - Discovering the Rebel Jesus  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1F9urqc>

March 1, 2015  
Mark 1:21-28  
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,964  
Video is not available online

1. 1 Peter
2. Mark
3. Matthew
3. Series
  1. Renegade Gospel
4. Speaker
  1. Andrew Conard
5. Tags
  1. revolutionary, teaching, Jesus, disciple, grace, mercy, subversive, movement, generosity, sacrifice, religion, peace, healing

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## **Conclusion**

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Good News

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## Mark 1:21-28, CEB

21 Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. 22 The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. 23 Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, 24 “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.” 25 “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” 26 The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out. 27 Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” 28 Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

### Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

\*\*\* Start Sermon Timer \*\*\*

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### Series Review

Jesus didn’t come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. Join First United Methodist Church in worship as we discover Jesus all over again.

### Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

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## Opening

### Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

### Opening Story - Drew Larson

One of the influential people in my life of faith was Drew Larson. Drew was a senior when I was a freshman at Salina Central. He was a multiple sport star – winning championships at the state level with our football team as a receiver and on our track team as a 400 and 4x400 sprinter. He was also captain of our Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) huddle.

I remember seeing in Drew someone who lived out their faith in a tangible way. He was not outspoken about his faith, yet I was able to see it in the decisions that he made, people with whom he spent his time and ways he spent his time. He lived his faith and life passionately and with integrity. He gave me a clear picture of Jesus – one I could follow, even in the day to day drama of being a high school student.

### Transition

There are times when I wonder if I am living this kind of life for others.  
Is my faith passionate and contagious?

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## No Religion

Across the United States, it seems that many “who claim to be Jesus followers have lost our passion, our first love for Christ. So it is not surprising that the fastest growing religion in America right now is “no religion.” In 2012 the Pew Research Institute’s research revealed:

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*One-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third of adults under 30—are religiously unaffiliated today ... In the last five years alone, the unaffiliated have increased from just over 15% to just under 20% of all U.S. adults. Their ranks include more than 13 million self-described atheists and agnostics (nearly 6% of the U.S. public), as well as nearly 33 million people who say they have no particular religious affiliation.<sup>2</sup>*

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The most recent estimate from the United State Census is that El Dorado has a population of just under 13,000 people.<sup>3</sup> This would mean there are 2,600 people in El Dorado who have “no religion.”

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<sup>2</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014), 18.

<sup>3</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/20/2020075.html>

What is it about the church or Christians that make religion so unappealing?

## Diluted Discipleship

“I think we have part of the answer. We have dumbed down what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our churches consist of members who have little to do with following Jesus. We have turned *church* into a noun, a stationary building that we visit once a week (or maybe once a month for many of us), instead of a living, functioning, working community of Jesus-following believers. The church has redefined *faithfulness* as simply showing up for worship, making a donation, and then going back home to our regular lives. Instead of being disciples who demonstrate an undiluted devotion to Jesus as Lord, [all too often] we have domesticated and watered down Jesus’ true identity.<sup>4</sup>

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## A Subversive Movement

“The renegade gospel espoused by Jesus was a subversive movement. Christianity was outlawed for the first three centuries of the church. Tens of thousands of followers were executed in coliseums throughout the Roman Empire. Perhaps it should be no surprise that today, the places in the world where Christianity is often growing the fastest are those countries where Christianity is still illegal and Christians are being persecuted by their governments.<sup>5</sup>

## Story: Pastor Training in Vietnam

“[A United Methodist preacher tells his] opportunity to train pastors for a week in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. [He] was warned before [he] left about what could happen if government authorities discovered [he] was preaching Christ. Most likely, [he] would have been promptly expelled from the country and barred from returning. However for the Vietnamese pastors, who had traveled formula regions for [his] teaching about the Christian faith, the risks were far greater, including the potential consequences of imprisonment. Jesus is often portrayed in [churches in the United States] as a good-natured Mr. Rogers type who beckons the tired and weary to his neighborhood for a little R&R and entertainment, but [those] Vietnamese pastors know a rebel Jesus who is very different from our [portrayal].<sup>6</sup>

## Self Examination

“I can’t chastise other Christians without first taking a hard look at myself. Have I become too comfortable? Have I fallen into the spiritual poverty of wealth? I need to

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<sup>4</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 19-20.

<sup>5</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 20.

<sup>6</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 20.

keep myself on the path of discovering the real Jesus, the true Jesus, and not the Jesus of my imagination.”<sup>7</sup>

### **Transition**

So let’s take a closer look at how revolutionary his teachings were, both two thousand years ago and today. We begin with the scripture reading for today.

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## **Revolutionary Teachings**

### **Healing at Capernaum**

“Once, on the Sabbath, Jesus body entered the synagogue at Capernaum and started teaching. Mark tells us:

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*“The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts.”<sup>8</sup>*  
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“Jesus was then interrupted by a person possessed by an evil spirit, who cried

-----  
*“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”<sup>9</sup>*  
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“The demon made an excellent point. It clearly recognized who Jesus was but certainly would never claim to be a disciple. Yet many of us who call ourselves Christians make that mistake all the time. We claim that all you have to do is believe in Jesus and you will be saved. But even the demons believe! It’s not what we “believe” that saves us; it’s what we obey.”<sup>10</sup>

### **Faith Calls for a Response**

When healing a paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, Jesus directed the man: “Get up! Pick up your a mat and walk” (John 5:8). Similarly, Jesus directed ten lepers in Luke 17:14 to “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” The lepers were healed as they obeyed. True faith calls for a response.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 21.

<sup>8</sup> Mark 1:22, CEB.

<sup>9</sup> Mark 1:24, CEB.

<sup>10</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 23.

<sup>11</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 23.



## **Peacemaker, Not a Peacekeeper**

“Jesus came to Planet Earth as a peacemaker, but he was not a peacekeeper. In the incident with the demon, Jesus spoke harshly to it.

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*“Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.”<sup>12</sup>*

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The people were amazed at Jesus’ compelling authority and boldness.

## ***Jesus and Moneychangers in the Temple***

In John 2, we see an example of Jesus’ anger. He found that the Temple in Jerusalem had been turned into a den “den of thieves” where businesses extorted the poor with exorbitant prices for birds or other animals that worshipers were forced to use for Temple offerings. To purchase animals for sacrifice, people had to convert their money to Temple currency, and the moneychangers and made it a win-lose proposition. Moneychangers won, and worshipers lost.

When Jesus saw what was going on, he used a whip, turned over tables, and drove out the unscrupulous money mongers and cheats. His actions don’t fit the image of a placid, domesticated Jesus, a “Jesus on a leash,” or a Messiah that we can control and tame.”<sup>13</sup>

## **Generosity and Sacrifice**

### ***Turn the Other Cheek***

“Yet Jesus clearly didn’t represent a God of violence. ... One of Jesus’ most radical teachings replaced the “eye for an eye” justice of the Old Testament. Instead, Jesus taught that if someone punched you in the face, turn the other cheek and let your antagonist blast the other side as well.

### ***Go the Extra Mile***

In that same passage, Jesus challenged us with powerful exercises in self-control. Roman law required a passerby to carry a Roman soldier’s pack for one mile if asked, aiding in the movement of the army. Jesus said the passerby should carry the heavy pack a second mile, though only asked to on one.

### ***Give the Shirt off Your Back***

Likewise, those under the Roman Empire’s iron rule were required to hand over their coats to Roman soldiers if directed to do so., Rome’s low-cost strategy to outfit its army for winter. Jesus instructed those who were asked for their coats to hand over their

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<sup>12</sup> Mark 1:25-26, CEB.

<sup>13</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 23-24.

shirts as well. These responses aren't intuitive or natural, and they don't serve our self-interest; nevertheless they reflect Jesus' teachings."<sup>14</sup>

## Jesus and Religion

### *Religious Leaders*

"Jesus delivered powerful teachings that were often difficult to listen to and even more challenging to live out. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were strict observers of the law that was detailed in the Old Testament. ... Yet Jesus at times dared to interpret the law even more strictly than the most legalistic Pharisees of the day."<sup>15</sup> ...

### *Status Quo*

"Many more of Jesus' teachings conflicted with what the self-righteously religious of Jesus' time would have believed or practices, and they certainly run counter to what our contemporary world embraces and promotes:

- "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself."<sup>16</sup>
- "So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last."<sup>17</sup>
- "the Human One didn't come to be served but rather to serve"<sup>18</sup>
- "f you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven."<sup>19</sup>

"Jesus could never be perceived as a protector of the status quo. Even the Beatitudes, which open the Sermon on the Mount, can be considered controversial or even undesirable. Yes, you are blessed – *if* you mourn, are meek, are poor in spirit, and so on. After reading the list, one might be inclined to say, "I never want to be that blessed!"<sup>20</sup>

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## Conclusion

Jesus challenges us with standards that may seem impossibly high. As Peter reminds us, [in 1 Peter 1:14]:

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<sup>14</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 23-24.

<sup>15</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 26.

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 22:39, CEB.

<sup>17</sup> Matthew 20:16, CEB.

<sup>18</sup> Matthew 20:28, CEB.

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 18:3, CEB.

<sup>20</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 23-24.

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*"You must be holy in every aspect of your lives, just as the one who called you is holy."*<sup>21</sup>

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## Good News

The good news is that Jesus offers forgiveness and mercy which enables us to live the unconventional life of a disciple.

### **Peter**

"Peter himself is a perfect example. After he denied Jesus three times during one of the blackest hours on the darkest day of Christ's earthly life, Jesus completely forgave Peter, restored him, and then used him as a key builder of the early church. Jesus extended grace and forgiveness to the criminal on the cross and, even less understandably, to the jeering crucifiers at his feet below as he died."<sup>22</sup>

## Call to Action

This week, I invite you to pull out your Bible and choose just one of the Gospels. Read [Jesus' words]; discover Jesus all over again, or for the very first time. How is Jesus presented in the Gospels different from you initial perception? What is Jesus as presented in the Gospels calling you to be and do? Review ... those words that represent what Christ had to stay during his brief three-year ministry on Planet Earth, to examine how revolutionary his teachers were, both two thousand years ago and today.

## Invitation

Although Jesus always called his followers to enter the small gate and take the narrow road to the Kingdom, he repeatedly taught mercy and relationship over rigidity and judgment. Consider the people who caught Jesus' attention during his ministry on Planet Earth. They included a poor widow with two small coins, a hemorrhaging woman, lepers, the blind, an unnamed child, an adulteress, prostitutes, and a short, thieving tax collector who clambered up a tree to grab a glimpse of Jesus walking by.

People just like you and me.  
Will you pray with me?

## Closing Prayer

[Text here]  
Amen.

8:30 AM		11:00 AM
<b>Sermon Time</b>		

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<sup>21</sup> 1 Peter 1:14, CEB.

<sup>22</sup> Mike Slaughter, *Renegade Gospel*, 28.