



Following Jesus

Through the Gospel of Mark

Theme verse of Mark:

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

Week #4

Background of Mark:

The Gospel of Mark portrays the person of Jesus more by what He does than by what He says. Although Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, it pays close attention to matters of human interest. Matthew and Luke walk us through the genealogy of Christ. John's theme was to prove that Jesus is the Savior of the world. The Gospel of Mark was written to the Romans and his theme is **Jesus Christ the Servant**. The Gospel of Mark wastes no time, and jumps right in to the ministry of Jesus. Mark does not record many of Jesus' sermons because his emphasis is on what Jesus did rather than what Jesus said.

What is the gospel?

- The long-awaited Messiah had come to break the power of sin and begin God's personal reign on earth.
- The gospel (Good News) of God was present in His life, teaching and atoning death.
- The gospel is both a historical event, and a personal relationship.
- Faith is trust placed in a living person, Jesus Christ.
- There is only one gospel (Gal. 1:1-9).

Crucial questions:

- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach me about sinful humanity?
- What does this text teach me about Jesus Christ?
- What does God want me to know?
- What does God want me to do?

Scripture: Mark 2:1-27

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² And **many** were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching

the word to them. ³ And they came, bringing to him a **paralytic carried** by four men. ⁴ And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they **removed** the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ And when Jesus **saw** their **faith**, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

- What moved Jesus was not their words, but their actions.
- Faith is what brings people to Jesus.

⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this man speak like that? He is **blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?**” ⁸ And immediately Jesus, **perceiving** in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your **sins** are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? ¹⁰ But that you may **know** that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, **rise**, pick up your bed, and go home.” ¹² And he **rose** and **immediately** picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and **glorified** God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

- The main issue with a person's life is not their suffering; it's their sin.
- Physical healing does not guarantee a spiritual life in Christ.
- Jesus always has eternity in view.
- You can only forgive a sin if it's against you.
- Jesus was claiming to be God! Blasphemy!
- “Son of God” is used fourteen times in the gospel of Mark.

¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son (Matthew) of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “**Follow me.**” And he **rose** and followed him. ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, **many** tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were **many** who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they **saw** that he was

eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to **his disciples**, “**Why** does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**”

- Jesus called people we'd likely overlook.

Question:

- What attracted sinners and tax collectors to Jesus?
- Why were the religious people so critical of Him?

If anyone is **in** Christ, he is a **new creation**. The **old** has passed away; behold, the **new** has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- Legalism is raising the level of biblical mandate and command what God has neither commanded nor prohibited in His Word.
- Legalism is characterized by looking for shortcomings in others rather than yourself.

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were **fasting**. And people came and said to him, “**Why** do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the **bridegroom** (Jesus) is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹ No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an **old garment**. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”

- The new wine of Christianity (Jesus) cannot be contained by old wineskins (legalism).
- We need to keep our heart pliable so we can accept Jesus' life-changing message.

- Fasting (withholding to focus) was genuinely directed at God, though, and not publicly displayed to earn the praise of men.
- To be with Jesus the bridegroom is as joyous as a wedding feast.
- Jesus did not come to reform us but to regenerate us, not to improve us but to make us new.

²³ One **Sabbath** he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to **pluck** heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time of A-bi-athar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath (ref. 1 Samuel 21:1-6).²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Question: Why did Jesus constantly buck the religious leaders?

Answer: Jesus will gladly honor the law when it conforms to God's intentions. When it doesn't, He will challenge the purpose.

- Sabbath means a deep rest, a deep peace.
- Sabbath is about restoring, replenishing, and repairing.
- The Sabbath was made for our enjoyment, and not to overinflate its significance.
- The Lord's Day is everyday. **Question:** Why is that important?
- Few things are more destructive, seductive, and deceptive to a true and vital relationship with God than the deadly poison of legalism. The hidden purpose behind legalism is earned faith, being right with God, and my appearance.