

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

LESSON 3A

THE SERVANT SON'S INITIAL MESSAGE AND MINISTRY 1:14 – 8:30

Opposition and Conflict 2:1 – 2:28

Praise God for your desire to study the Bible. We welcome you to join our Thursday Night Bible Study sessions at FAME, 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

Directions: Please read and study the scripture lesson and any other scripture references, the Illumination section, and the Observation section, then answer the questions in the Exploration section. When you submit your answers on the answer sheet a Bible study teacher will review your answers and provide comments within 2 weeks of submission. These comments will enrich your Bible study experience and is not intended to grade or judge your knowledge or understanding.

Mark 2:1 - 28 NIV	Illumination
<p>Jesus Heals a Paralytic</p> <p>¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?" ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" He said to the paralytic, ¹¹"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"</p> <p>The Calling of Levi</p> <p>¹³Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. ¹⁵While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹⁷On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."</p> <p>Jesus Questioned About Fasting</p> <p>¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" ¹⁹Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. ²⁰But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. ²¹No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. ²²And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."</p> <p>Lord of the Sabbath</p> <p>²³One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ²⁷Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preached - the Greek word, <i>laleo</i> is used in verse 2. This Greek word is not the normal Greek word used for preaching – <i>kerusso</i>. <i>Laleo</i> means speaking which implies that Jesus was conversing with the people. ❖ Blasphemy - this phrase refers to showing contempt or lack of respect for God or items considered to be sacred. ❖ Scribe – originally these men were transcribers of the Law and readers of the Hebrew Bible in the synagogue. They became interpreters of the law (both civil and religious). They were lawyers and religious scholars and some were Pharisees. As teachers of the Law they were the legal specialists of the time. ❖ Pharisees – they were the religious conservatives of the day. They taught the Law and traditions. They wanted total obedience to the Law and traditions. They saw themselves as righteous and everyone else as sinners. ❖ Son of Man – Old Testament term for the Messiah Daniel 7:13

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- ❖ In chapter 1 Jesus popularity was growing and growing with the people. However in chapters 2 and 3 their will be rising opposition to His mission and teaching.
- ❖ Capernaum became the headquarters of Jesus in Galilee.
- ❖ Opposition began to arise when Jesus healed the paralytic man in verses 1 – 12.
 - We are not certain whose house is referenced in verse 1. It could have been Peter's home, Jesus' home or His mother's home.
 - Jesus returns to Capernaum after visiting some other towns in Galilee. The people gathered in the house when they learned that Jesus was there. They came for healing as indicated by the paralytic man.
 - Jesus did not heal but was conversing with the people concerning the Word. Jesus did not always preach, perform miracles and heal.
 - Even though Jesus was not healing, four friends of the paralytic man were determined to have Jesus heal their friend.
 - Since they could not take the man through the door they had to dig an opening in the roof. During this time period the roofs were flat with outside stairs leading to it. The roofs were a mixture of mortar, tar, ashes and sand. Some homes had stone slabs underneath the mortar mixture.
 - When Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic man and his four friends he was prepared to heal him. Since the people believed that sickness was due to sin, Jesus told the man that his sins had been forgiven. In addition, only the Messiah had the authority to forgive sin.
 - Even though Jesus was conversing with the people and healing the paralytic man He was still paying attention to the people in the room. As the scribes began to reason in their hearts that Jesus was blaspheming, Jesus perceived their thoughts.
 - The people expected Jesus to heal the man. But Jesus took the opportunity to announce who he is – the Son of Man. The scribes and Pharisees had a problem with this - blaspheme.
 - Jesus, the Son of Man has the authority and power to heal using whatever words He wants.
 - Jesus healed the man as proof of His claim.
 - The people were amazed and honored God.
- ❖ In verses 13 – 17 Jesus called Levi/Matthew the tax collector to follow Him.
 - Matthew was a tax collector. Matthew who was Jewish worked for the Roman government in the most hated position, collecting taxes. He had probably been excommunicated from the synagogue and had shamed his family and friend. Tax collectors were known for cheating the people.
 - As the tax collector for the area Matthew had a booth or elevated platform to be able to see everyone coming and going in order to collect the taxes. Therefore he had seen Jesus before and knew of His reputation. Jesus had seen Matthew before.
 - Jesus commanded Matthew to "follow Him" as he was collecting taxes. Matthew obeyed immediately, leaving his means of support behind.
 - Matthew had a dinner party to introduce his friend to Jesus.
 - The scribes and Pharisees did not associate with Matthew's friends and did not think that Jesus should. But they did not ask Jesus why He was eating with them. They asked his disciples. But Jesus heard the question and answered.
 - Jesus came for the spiritual sick.
 - Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.
 - Jesus used a little tongue-n-cheek when He said "He did not come to call the righteous". The scribes and Pharisees thought that they were righteous but they really were not according to God's definition.

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- ❖ Jesus is questioned about fasting in verses 18 – 22. Jesus concept of fasting and that of the Pharisees were not the same. There is mounting tension and scrutiny each time the Jewish leaders and Jesus encounter each other. It appears that they are following Jesus to build their case against Him.
 - The Law required that the people fast only one day a year – Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29). However it appears from Luke 18:12 that the Pharisees fasted twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays as an act of piety. They probably promoted this tradition among the people since John's disciples were also fasting.
 - Some people came to Jesus wanting to know why He and His disciples were feasting at Matthews' house and not fasting as the disciples of John and Pharisees.
 - Jesus believed in fasting as he had taught in the Beatitudes – Matthew 6:16-18
 - Should not have a sad countenance.
 - People should not know that you are fasting by your appearance or be told.
 - Jesus fasted when He was in the wilderness before He started His ministry.
 - Jesus, the Pharisees, and the disciples of John do not agree on the fasting.
 - It appears the Pharisees were fasting as a show of piety.
 - It appears the disciples of John were fasting as a sign of mourning for the sins of the people and the coming of the Messiah.
 - Jesus felt that neither of these reasons was valid since He was among them.
 - Fasting was done during times of disaster and as a sign of humility and repentance. It represented mourning. During fasting peoples' attention was focused on God and demonstrated their change of heart and true devotion – Judges 20:26; I Kings 21:27; Ezra 8:21; Joel 1:14. While Jesus walked on earth it was a time of celebration and rejoicing.
 - Jesus provides two parables as to why there is no need for His disciples to fast at this time.
 - Mark only records four parables of Jesus and two of them are presented in this passage.
 - Parable of the Bridegroom
 - Weddings are a time of celebration and feasting.
 - When Jesus as the bridegroom is taken from earth is the time for fasting, not when He is present.
 - Parable of New Wine in New Wineskins
 - Wine was stored in goatskin. New wine expanded as it fermented and therefore was put into new wineskins that would stretch as the wine fermented. Old wineskin can not expand.
 - Jesus arrival on earth ushered in a new time, a new covenant.
 - The new covenant between God and His people could not be combined with the Law and traditions of Judaism.
- ❖ The Pharisees have problems with the disciples plucking corn on the Sabbath in verses 23-28.
 - The Pharisees had established rigid traditions to make sure everyone keep the Sabbath holy. Plucking corn was not allowed even when hunger.
 - Jesus does not condemn or declare the innocence of His disciples. Instead he cited an example of David who violated the law when he ate the showbread from the tabernacle when he was hungry and there was nothing else to eat. I Samuel 21:1-6
 - Jesus was not saying do not follow the Law. However He was saying do not be so rigid in enforcing the ceremonial laws. Allow for some discernment and compassion which was alien to the Pharisees.
 - The Pharisees had lost the spirit of the Sabbath.

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Submitted By: _____

Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Date: _____

Exploration

Consider the Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark and the Illumination section and Observation section for your answers.

1. Why do you think there was growing opposition to Jesus among the Jewish religious and civil leaders?
2. Why did so many people gather into the house? Did Jesus do what they expected?
3. We normally think that Jesus taught, preached, healed and performed miracles. The Greek word translated preached in verse 2 emphasizes more conversing than proclaiming. What do you think about Jesus conversing with the people?
4. Jesus addressed the perceptions of the Pharisees concerning the words He used to heal the paralytic. How was He able to perceive their thoughts? Are we able to perceive the thoughts of others? Should we address them?
5. How do we know that the paralytic man and his four friends had faith that Jesus could heal him?
6. Why do we fast today?
7. Why couldn't the new covenant of grace be combined with the Law and Jewish tradition?
8. What does the Parable of New Wine in New Wineskins teach us about ministry today?
9. What is the spirit of the Sabbath that Jesus was trying to teach the Pharisees?

Thought For The Week: Jesus is Lord.

