

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 26 May 24

Text: Mark 2:18-3:6

Message: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Jason Finke

In this week's passage, Mark focuses on Jesus's confrontations with the Pharisees regarding their religious traditions – specifically fasting and the sabbath. He notes that some of John the Baptist's disciples along with the Pharisees were questioning Jesus on why His disciples were not fasting in accordance with Jewish tradition. Jesus used the illustration of a Jewish wedding to show that it would be inappropriate for His disciple to fast while He is present (as it would be for a guest to fast at a wedding feast). Mark also records two sabbath-related confrontations with the Pharisees (the disciples picking heads of grain and Jesus healing a man with a withered hand). Jesus used the first incident to teach that the sabbath was instituted by God to be a blessing to man (rest) as opposed to a burden (man-made restrictions). He used the second confrontation to demonstrate that works of compassion (in this case healing) were not violations of God's intention for the sabbath.

The main point of the sermon was Losing My Religion and Ted organized it around the below points.

- 1. Scripture Alone**
- 2. Pursue Jesus**
- 3. Remember the Gospel**

Discussion

1. In the sermon, Ted noted that it is usually religious people who are the most blind. How do the Pharisees demonstrate this point in the passage? Why were they so blind to the truth when Jesus was standing right in front of them? What religious traditions today make people blind to the truth? **Read Matthew 5:3**. Why is it the poor in spirit who receive the kingdom of heaven?
2. Ted also discussed how religious people often take good things and use them as sticks, frequently by overburdening people with traditions. In effect, they are elevating their traditions to the level of Scripture. Why is it so tempting to treat our religious traditions as if they're equal to Scripture? **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17**. How does this passage set Scripture above and apart from tradition?

3. Additionally, Ted highlighted the importance of pursuing Jesus from the heart. While religious tradition can make someone appear pious, it can be accomplished with wrong attitudes/motivations. How is this exemplified by the Pharisees in Mark 2:18-3:6? **Read Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:7-9.** How do these passages show the futility of just going through the motions of religious tradition? Do you at times find yourself just going through the motions? If so, how can you get out of that cycle?

4. Finally, Ted instructed us to remember the Gospel and specifically encouraged us to think on Romans 8:3-4. **Read Romans 8:3-4.** What aspects of the Gospel are highlighted in this passage? How is remembering the Gospel an antidote to religiosity?