



Title: Gospel of Mark: Jesus came to do something new.

Scripture: Mark 2:13-28

Date: 06112023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus did not come to affirm rituals or traditions, He came to do something new.

Jesus Is A Friend To Sinners (vv. 13-15)

Vs. 13

Then He went out again by the sea - After Jesus forgave the paralytic man of his sins and healed him, He then continued on with His ministry by the sea.

All the multitude came to Him, and He taught them - We can recall that the focus of Jesus' ministry was to teach them (Mark 1:38), and this is exactly what was going on.

Vs. 14

He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office - As Jesus was walking by, he saw Levi, a tax collector. Levi (also known as Matthew, Matthew 9:9) was a tax collector. Tax collectors were not looked upon favorably. They worked for the Roman government and with that said, had the ability to enforce the payment of taxes. Levi was sitting in his office.

And He said to Him, "Follow Me." - Jesus turns to Levi and said two words that would forever change his life. Jesus said follow me. All of this, despite his position and job in society.

Understanding how almost everyone hated tax collectors, it is remarkable to see how Jesus loved and called Levi. - David Guzik

Jesus loves the unlovable and can call anyone into a relationship with Him.

So he arose and followed Him - As surprised as Levi and others may have been at Jesus' invitation to follow Him, Levi got up and followed Him.

Having a thieving tax collector as a disciple wouldn't improve Jesus' reputation among the religious elite.- Tony Evans

Following Jesus is the single most important decision you could ever make in your life.

Vs. 15

Many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples - This scene is considered by many a going away party for Levi. He was leaving the tax collecting profession and becoming a disciple of Jesus.

Jesus not only sat with Levi, but also with other tax collectors and sinners.

For there were many, and they followed Him - The result of Jesus taking time to sit and converse with sinners is profound. They followed Him. Being in His presence changed their life.

Jesus was a friend to these sinners, and they responded to His love.

Jesus Is The Great Physician (vv. 16-17)

Vs. 16

How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners? -

The scribes and Pharisees objected to Jesus sitting with the tax collectors and sinners. They were often at odds with the ministry of Jesus.

The Pharisees:

1. Were a respected conservative religious group.
2. They were usually at odds with Jesus
3. Separated themselves from everything that they deemed unholy.

He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick - Jesus had a reply to the Pharisees that were questioning what He had done. He reminded them that He was the great

physician of the soul and He needed to be with those who did not have it 'all together'.

I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance- Jesus further reminded them that He did not call the righteous, but rather sinners to repentance.

Jesus did not come because we have it all together. He came because we are broken and in need of healing.

Pride and arrogance can prevent you from seeing the real purpose and meaning behind the gift of Jesus.

Jesus As The Bridegroom (vv. 18-20)

Vs. 18

Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast? - According to Luke 18:12 the Pharisees fasted twice a week. The Pharisees noticed that only they and the disciples of John practiced fasting. They noted that the disciples of Jesus did not.

When you're stuck in a religious rut, you notice others who are not.

Vs. 19

Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?" - Jesus replied with an illustrative example in the form of a question. During the week-long wedding celebration, Rabbis declared that you did not have to keep the law if it prevented you from celebrating. Using this, Jesus asks this pertinent question.

Vs. 20

The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days. - Jesus knew that one day He would physically not be here on this earth. At that point, it would be more appropriate to fast. During this time, it was more appropriate to enjoy the time with Him.

Jesus was not like John the Baptist or the Pharisees. He is the Messiah.

The Garment and The Wineskins (vv. 21-22)

Vs. 21

No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; or else the new piece pulls away - Jesus would now use another illustration to get His point across. He states that you can't simply put a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Over time, it would simply pull away.

Vs. 22

No one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins - Likewise, He followed up with an illustration using wineskins. Wineskins would expand under pressure and become brittle after they were used. So if you put new, unfermented wine in an old wineskins, they would burst.

New wine must be put into new wineskins - New unfermented wine needs to be put into new wineskins.

Jesus came to introduce something new, not to patch up something old. This is what salvation is all about.- David Guzik

Jesus Explains The Sabbath (vv. 23-28)

Vs. 23

He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain - Jesus and His disciples walked through the grain fields on the sabbath. As they walked, they plucked the heads of grain. They were not guilty of stealing, they were guilty of violating the law. Rabbis were notorious for filling Judaism with rituals related to the observance of the Sabbath.

They did not break the Old Testament Law, they went against Pharisaical tradition.

Vs. 24

Why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath? - From the Pharisees point of view, the disciples were not observing the Sabbath and

the legalistic rules associated with it. What they held high in value was not being observed.

Vs. 25-27

Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry? - Jesus would now respond to their concerns. In doing so, Jesus pointed the Pharisees to 1 Samuel 21: 1-6.

He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath- David's use of the “holy bread” demonstrated an important principle. The needs of humans are more important than religious rituals or traditions.

The Old Testament regulations were not meant to be burdens, but to be blessings - given not for punishment, but for protection. - Jon Courson

Human need is always greater than a ritual or tradition.

Vs. 28

The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath - Jesus would now make a bold statement. He would declare that He is Lord of the Sabbath. This brings up a great point to ponder. If Jesus who is Lord of the Sabbath was not offended, then why should they be?

Excuses that we make not to share our faith:

1. I don't know what to say.
2. I can't answer the hard questions.
3. Someone else can share.

Evangelism is not about head knowledge, it's about the Holy Spirit drawing someone to Jesus.

If engaging with the lost is repulsive to you, you've lost sight of Jesus's mission and the calling on the church. - Tony Evans

3D Guide

DO. **BOTTOM LINE: Jesus did not come to affirm rituals or traditions, He came to do something new.**



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What church traditions have you experienced?
2. In your own words how did Jesus deal with the Pharisees?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your daily life?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.