

# Mark 2

Love God by Loving People

- John the Baptist
- Jesus baptized by John
- Satan tempts Jesus
- Calling the first 4:2 Pair of Brothers; fisherman
- **Authority of Jesus:**
  1. In His teaching
  2. Over Supernatural; Demons/Satan
  3. Over Sickness
- **Today, Authority to forgive sin...all sin**

## I. Busting Through: Boldly Seeking Jesus Face

**1 And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house.**

- Healed Leper caused Jesus to leave home-base, fishing town of Capernaum
- "Jesus is in the house" Crowds attracted ...Peter's house?
- Jesus and 4 Fisherman, Peter/Andrew, James/John
- Mother in law healed now serving finger sandwiches

**2 Immediately** many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door.

- **Immediately:** 1 of 40X; No room to open the door!

And [Jesus] **preached the word** to them.

- Preach [proclaimed] the Word; what else would you preach?
- Many preaching false message

## Man's Philosophy Useless at best

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Captivated by Jesus: **Enthralled** by the Word of God: **Real Wisdom**
- Preached the Word to a captive crowd!

**3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.**

- "They" came to Him carrying paralytic to the house

- “They” can teach us much

4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was.

- **Uncovered:** Lit. Broke/Busted up the roof!

**Hebrews 4:15** ...we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## **Busting thru** the Roof to get to Him!

- They are unstoppable
- They are determined
- They will see Jesus face whatever it takes...do we give up too soon?
- Jacob became one of them...

**Genesis 32:26** [Angel of the Lord] said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.” But [Jacob] said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” 27 So [Jesus] said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” 28 [Angel of the Lord] said, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have **striven with God and with men and have prevailed.**” 29 Then Jacob asked him and said, “Please tell me your name.” But [Angel of the Lord] said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And [Angel of the Lord] blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.” 31 Now the sun rose upon [Jacob] just as he crossed over...

- **Perseverance in seeking God’s face:** “They” will strive until they arrive! Prevail
- Persevere with God until you cross over...**until you see the sun**
  1. Money issues
  2. Relational Issues
  3. Bondage/Addiction
  4. Self-Worth
  5. Job/School
  6. Marriage
- Enthusiasm in what God will can/will do:
- Israel’s King Joash asks for deliverance from the Syrians

**2 Kings 13:17** [Elisha the prophet said to King Joash] said, “Open the east window”; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, “Shoot”; and he shot. And he said, “The arrow of the Lord’s deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them.” 18 Then he said, “Take the arrows”; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground”; so he struck three times, and stopped. 19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, **“You should have**

**struck five or six times;** then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times." [Lack of enthusiasm revealed his heart]

- "They" will persevere until they see Jesus face
- They were enthusiastic about what God can/will do.
- Without faith it is impossible to please Him

## [Don't limit God...He doesn't like that!]

**Ephesians 3:20** ...to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4b So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

- **Perez:** To "break through" breach; Jesus looks up and smiles! Honors faith!
- Offered their friend to Jesus: Did as much as they could do...
  1. Council
  2. Pray
  3. Love
  4. Encourage
  5. Don't stop but...Ultimately leave in God's hands

## II. Only God Can Forgive Sins

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

- Jesus honors faith!
- Centurion: **"just say the Word"** and my servant will be healed...

**Luke 7:9** [Jesus] turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ...returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

- Honors their faith ...by forgiving their friend?

**Psalm 51:1** Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.<sup>4</sup> **Against You, You only, have I sinned...**

- **Spiritual Healing:** Better than 2 legs made whole to walk straight into Hell

"Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results."

(Wiersbe)

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

- Reasoning in their hearts:

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- **Reasoned in their hearts:** Thought to selves: Why does He speak blasphemies?

## Who can forgive but God alone: Good Question?

**Mark 1:32 [proved who He was earlier]**... they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons [later he would challenge them "if you wont believe my Words believe in Me by My actions"]

- [Scribes, knowers of the law] God alone can forgive sins: **Jesus does not disagree**

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they **reasoned thus within themselves**, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"

- Perceived in His Spirit: Omniscience [All-Knowing]
- Calls them out...Reads their minds: Why are you thinking this way

9 **Which is easier**, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?

- A. Your sins are forgiven: No way to prove God forgave

10 **But that you may know** that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." <sup>12</sup> Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

- **So you may know that I can forgive sins**...point of the miracles!
- **Son of Man/Son of God:** All man/All God;

## Fullness of God dwells in Him...

**Colossians 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

- Friend picks up his bed and walks out of the house! Authority vindicated!

He was cured...therefore he was forgiven! [Barklay]

- Spiritual wholeness, now Physical wholeness!

**SUMMARY:** Only God can forgive. Faith leading to forgiveness

**Ephesians 2:8** ...by grace you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

## Faith is the conduit of God's grace and forgiveness

- "They" believed Jesus could do anything!

### III. Matthew the Tax Collector: The Least of These

13 Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. 14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

- Tax Collectors in Jesus Time:
  1. Tax a man for what he was carrying
  2. Hated: Fellow Jew working for Rome [hated for dominating Israel]
  3. Traitors
  - 4. Outcasts**
  5. Known to be extortionists

**Luke 3:12** [John the Baptist] tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

6. Synonym for "sinner" "pagan"

**Matthew 5:47** ... if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? **Do not even the tax collectors do so?**

**Matthew 18:17** [Believers that refuse to repent]... [Treat them] like a heathen/ tax collector.

7. Tax collectors direct opposite reputation of "respectable" Pharisees

- **But** Jesus preferred Tax collectors homes over Pharisees; Religious leaders

**Matthew 11:19** [Jesus known as] ... **a friend of tax collectors and sinners!**

**Luke 19: 5b** "[Tax Collector] Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay

at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when [religious leaders] saw it, they all complained, saying, **"He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."**

- Jesus would condemn their religious hypocrisy:

**Luke 18:9** [Read] ...[Jesus] spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, **'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'** 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."... e.g. 17 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." [lots of surprises judgment day]

**Matthew 21:31** [Again to those who trusted in their own goodness] ...tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

**"Follow Me."** So he arose and followed Him.

- Sacrifice for Levi [Matthew] as the job was greatly coveted...left all to follow Jesus

15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

- **Tax collectors and sinners:** A going away party for Matthew

## Jesus went to his home:

"...the condition of things in the Christian Church ... is troubling ... in many ways...the **detachment** of the Christian Church from sinning men and women. We still build our sanctuaries, and set up our standards...and say to the sinning ones: if you will come to us, we will help you!" (Morgan) paraphrased

## ...Jesus went to the Sinners home!

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, **"How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"**

- Why is He defiling Himself? eeeooo
- Pharisee: Separated ones...separated from God by religion:

**Matthew 23:13** "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the

kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves... 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- Hope for even a Tax Collector or me:

**1 Corinthians 6:9** ...the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

## Levi [Outcast]...a son of the living God

**1 John 3:1** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

**I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."**

## Mark 2: 18-27 New Wine Same Lord

### I. New Wine

18 The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

- Two groups of disciples come to Jesus fasting and complaining:
  1. **Johns Disciples:** Fasting part of Repentance
  2. **Pharisees Disciples:** Student of the OT Law [2x week]

## Why don't your followers fast?

- OT law Requirement only on **Day of Atonement** [Lev 16, 23 and Numbers 29]
  1. Solemn Day
  2. Day of elaborate ritual
  3. Holy Day: Set apart to God/draw near to God/deny flesh
  4. Other times/days as sign distress/mourning

19 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast."

- Picture of a Wedding: **Joy not Mourning**

20 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.

- Day of Atonement: **Fulfilled by Jesus**
- At-one-meant i.e. One with God
  1. Sin separated man from God
  2. Jesus came to pay for sin; ie. atone for our sin on the cross

## **Blinded by Religion/Tradition**

- Lamb of God was before them and they would not see Him

**Mark 12:34** [To a scribe] ... Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

## **3 Feet from the Kingdom because 3 feet from the King**

**John 5:39** You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

21 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; or else the new piece pulls away from the old, and the tear is made worse. 22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined.

- New Patch is washed it will tear away from old garment when it shrinks
- New fermenting wine expands it will burst the old container



## Beyond the boundaries of organized religion

- Blessed are the flexible for they shall not break!

### **...But new wine must be put into new wineskins."**

- I have something new that has to be put into something new

#### **Jesus is introducing something new without destroying that which is old**

- Introducing a New Relationship/Covenant/ Agreement with mankind based on what He will do not what we can't do
- Old agreement/covenant: I will bless you when you keep the law
- Problem with the Old Covenant: **We can't keep the law**

**James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

**Hebrews: 8:7** ...if that first *covenant* had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second....<sup>13</sup> When He said, "A new *covenant*," **He has made the first [based on Law] obsolete.**

- New Covenant based on Jesus blood; Not keeping the Law
  - a) I will make a New Covenant
  - b) I will put my laws into their minds
  - c) I will write My laws on their hearts
  - d) I will be their God and they will be My people
  - e) I will remember their sins no more

- New covenant/New agreement not based on what we do but what Jesus did!

## **Why don't we fast...The King is here...the Kingdom is Here!**

- Hippies

### **SUMMARY:**

Q. Why don't Your disciples fast.

A. Fasting is required to draw near to God...and God is here!

A. Fasting is for a time of mourning...and I Am here

## **You can't keep it so I'll keep it for you!**

- **Problem: We cant keep the Law**

## II. Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

23 Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain.<sup>24</sup> And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

...it is the question of the Sabbath Day that Jesus broke with the religious rulers. From this time on they sought his death.

- Total of 7 Healings on the Sabbath
- **Pharisees:** Sin Sniffers
- **Sabbath:** Day of Rest and no work
- Were they "Doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath"

**Deuteronomy 23:24** "When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put *any* in your container.<sup>25</sup> When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain. [Law was not broken, tradition broken]

At this time, Rabbis filled Judaism with elaborate rituals related to the Sabbath and observance of other laws. Ancient Rabbis taught that on the Sabbath, a man could not carry something in his right hand or in his left hand, across his chest or on his shoulder. But you could carry something with the back of your hand, with your foot, with your elbow, or in your ear, your hair, or in the hem of your shirt, or in your shoe or sandal. Or, on the Sabbath, you were forbidden to tie a knot - except a woman could tie a knot in her girdle. So, if a bucket of water had to be raised from a well, you could not tie a rope to the bucket, but a woman could tie her girdle to the bucket! [Guzic]

- Jesus did not break the Mosaic Law but continually broke additions to the Law
- David did break the Mosaic law and was justified:

25 But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: 26 how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?"

- Set-up
  - a) Saul is trying to kill David
  - b) David runs to Nob: "City of the Priests" Asks bread himself and his men
  - c) Priest: "There is only Holy Bread" unlawful to eat; only priests
- David breaks the Mosaic Law: **Keeps the Law of Liberty; Law of Love**

**James 2:8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well...**10** For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all...**12** So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the **law of liberty**. **13** For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

- God's Heart:

**Hosea 6:6** ...I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

- Mercy win over judgment; David's care for his men justified his action
- Relationship trumps Religion
- Spirit of the Law above the written code
- Human need is more important than religious ritual [Guzik]
- The Ceremonial Law melts in the Light of the Face of Jesus Christ
- [Blood transfusions]

**Luke 10:30** [Read] [Who is keeping the Law as it was intended?] Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. **31** And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, **34** and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. **35** On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' **36** Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" **37** And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

## **Jesus IS the fulfillment of the Ceremonial Laws**

- Ceremonial Law: Sabbaths, Feast Days, and Rituals
- Note: Moral Law is eternal/contradicts the Law of Love/Liberty

**Colossians 2:13** [Read] When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- Jesus nailed the list of laws we have broken to His cross]

**15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. **16** Therefore...

- ...because Jesus nailed the list of laws we have broken to His cross as HE paid the

penalty for our sin

...let no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <sup>17</sup> things which are a **mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.** <sup>18</sup> Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in [Religion]

### **Ceremonial Laws cant save...they spoke of Jesus who does save. Don't let anyone steal your joy by laying the burden of OT Ceremonial Law on you!**

**Acts 15:10** ... why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

- OT Ceremonial laws spoke of Jesus!
- e.g. Sabbath is our Rest fulfilled in the person of Jesus who is our rest from bondage of trying to keep the Law:

**Hebrews 4:9** There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

**27** And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.<sup>28</sup> Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

- The law of the Sabbath was for mans benefit:
  1. **Physical:** God's love for His people giving a day off
  2. **Spiritual:** Jesus is our rest from trying to earn our way to heaven

## **I, Jesus, am Lord of the Sabbath**

If He, the very Lord of the Sabbath, was not offended by His disciple's actions, then these sideline critics should not have been either.[Guzik]

- Again asserting His Deity

## **Mark 3: Healing on the Sabbath: Blinded by Religion**

**Mark 3:1** And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup> So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

- Jesus enters the again; man with withered hand
- Watched closely to accuse: Knew He would gravitate to one in need!

3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."

- To the man "Step forward" Lit. "Rise, come into the midst and stand there"

4 Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

- According to their interpretation it was unlawful to heal on Sabbath
- To the Pharisees: Good or evil on the Sabbath? Silence [learned not to answer Him]

5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

**Looked at them with anger?** [Momentary] Toward religion your not entering/preventing others from entering]

- Grieved by the hardness of their hearts [org. Continuous grief]
- Stretch out your hand! Restored as whole as the other, made whole

6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, **how they might destroy Him.**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light**, because their deeds were evil.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the **light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**Still...Jesus came into the world to save sinners...**don't harden your heart, today is the day of Salvation. Religion can't save but Jesus can and will when you ask Him