



February 18, 2024

## Concerning Jesus (Mark 2) -Aaron McRae

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

### ➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

**If given the option would you rather read the book or watch the movie?**

### ➤ EXPLORATION

There are so many stories, teachings and examples in the gospel of Mark concerning Jesus, that we get a pretty good idea of who He is, what He does, and what motivates Him.

Also, there are plenty of stories and teachings in Mark that if we really pay attention should concern us about Jesus. He does not always do or say the expected thing. In fact, the people that you would think would most appreciate Jesus, religious people, are often the ones that he offends.

Last week we focused on the first chapter of Mark. Here are a few highlights:

- The arrival of the kingdom of God
- Jesus is baptized & tested for 40 days
- Jesus calls first disciples
- Jesus drives out impure spirit
- Jesus heals many people
- Jesus goes out to pray alone
- Jesus heals a man with leprosy

This week we will focus on the compassion of Jesus that is evident throughout the New Testament.

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (From your bible, read aloud)**

This compassion was demonstrated early in Mark 2 as Jesus healed a paralyzed man. But first, Jesus forgives the man of his sins.

### **Mark 2:5-6 (From your bible, read aloud)**

Jesus was making a clear statement to the crowd that he not only had the power to heal, he also had the power to forgive sins.

**Why do you think the “teachers of the law” were so upset with Jesus?**

### **Mark 2:13-14 (From your bible, read aloud)**

Once again, Jesus does something that shocked people. Tax collectors were thought of as traitors to their own people and collaborators with the Roman oppressors. They were outcasts in society, utterly repulsive to the Jewish people. But Jesus saw Levi as one of his beloved and called him by name to come and follow.

### **Following Jesus means that we...**

- Think like Jesus thinks
- Feel like Jesus feels
- Love like Jesus loves
- Do like Jesus does
- Live like Jesus lives

### **Mark 2:15-16 (From your bible, read aloud)**

Apparently the first thing Levi did after choosing to follow Jesus was to throw a dinner party. The only

people who would have associated with him were the other outcasts of society.

### Who are the people today that are considered “outcasts” of society?

Jesus and his disciples sat and ate dinner with Levi and his friends who were “tax collectors and sinners.” In Jewish culture this would be considered an act of friendship and acceptance.

#### Being moved by compassion means moving from:

- Receiving grace to giving grace

It is impossible to have compassion for someone if you don't remember God's compassion for you. It is also impossible to have compassion for someone you have written off. Jesus had compassion on people that no one else would dare to acknowledge.

#### Being moved by compassion means moving from:

- Receiving grace to giving grace
- Comfort zone to loving service

Just imagine if Jesus were here in the present day.

### Where might Jesus go today that would make you really uncomfortable?

Why does Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinners?

#### Possible Answers:

- He loves them
- He goes to them so they can get to know him
- They probably aren't allowed in the spaces he normally teaches

For the first time in Mark's gospel we see Jesus facing opposition. By showing compassion, Jesus is making it clear that the man-made rules of the religious leaders were not an accurate reflection of God's Kingdom. Their comfort didn't concern Jesus, he came to those who knew they needed a Savior.

#### Being moved by compassion means moving from:

- Receiving grace to giving grace
- Comfort zone to loving service
- Certainty to courageous faith

#### *Luke 7:34 (From your bible, read aloud)*

One of the marks of being a disciple of Jesus is being around people who are not like you. But we need to be

aware of our motivations and be wise about our own spiritual formation. Jesus was with them to share the good news of God's Kingdom. He was inviting them to follow him. It is our responsibility to be wise about how we spend our time as we grow in our spiritual formation. As a mature believer, our motivation is to love and lead people into God's Kingdom.

### Share about a time when you had to stop hanging around with certain people because you were not spiritually strong enough to abstain from things that were not good for you.

#### Being moved by compassion means moving from:

- Receiving grace to giving grace
- Comfort zone to loving service
- Certainty to courageous faith
- Outward spirituality to inward transformation

We **ALL** need a savior who has compassion on us and forgives us of our sin. This begins the process of learning to be moved and motivated by love and compassion, rather than reputation or status.

*There is no one who is unloveable to God.* As followers of Jesus we can learn to see people with compassion and to share the good news of God's Kingdom with them.

#### ➤ TAKE AWAY

As a church we want to follow Jesus and be people who are filled with compassion. We want to share the good news of God's love with the world!

Here at Hillside Community Church we believe that healthy spiritual formation happens when we are actively engaged in the following:

- Experiencing God's Love
- Growing in Community
- Serving with Compassion

Take a few minutes to think about how you are personally engaging in each of these areas. Are there adjustments that you might want to make?

Take time to pray for one another asking God to fill you with compassion as you interact with people this week.