

## Mark 2 “The Servant of Man”

Please Stand and Open your Bibles to Mark 2:1-12

Reminder of Mark being the representation of the Ox. Jesus the Servant.

Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

The Paralytic and his friends

Mark 2:1-12

2 Timothy 4:1-2

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

Notice, “They” brought him to Jesus. We don’t know how many there were. We assume four because he is let down by a stretcher. Could have been a dozen. Verse 5 says Jesus “Saw their faith” This book is an action book. It is all about Jesus doing and not so much saying. There are a whole lot of people that say they have faith, but my question is do they? If you believe that Jesus is the only hope for people you love how far are you willing to go to get them to Jesus? These guys tore the roof off! There comes a

point where talk is cheap. We see it with the religious freedom movement. A whole lot of people making merchandise on the coming tyranny but when push comes to shove, they just want to report on it and sell you their findings. They talk like they care but when it's time to show up they are nowhere to be found! This was a problem in the early church and James points it out...

Faith without works is dead

James 2:14-26

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by [g]my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the

messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Jesus responds with a person's greatest need, "your sins are forgiven you". This was not just for him but for all the people there. The scribes are correct no one can forgive sins but God. This is the point that Jesus is making. This is the first of many rejections that the religious rulers will have of Jesus. He not only does a miracle of healing but that of reading the thought of their heart!

But before we move on let us remind ourselves of why Jesus made the statement about it being easier to say. It would be harder if the healing came first. Why? Because we would credit our act of rising up to our salvation. We would start the first church of the rising ups. We would write a book and do a tour and start a following. Don't think you wouldn't! Anytime our flesh can take credit it will! We covered this story in our recent study on salvation that telling someone they have to "Turn" from their sins in the sense they have to stop sinning is a works-based gospel.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

This is the first place that Jesus uses the title "Son of Man" in Mark's gospel. This is another declaration that He is God as it is a title found in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 7:13

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!

Don't let anyone tell you that Jesus never claimed to be God. He did and if He wasn't God, He would be guilty of blasphemy.

The Calling of Matthew

Mark 2:13-17

The difference between the calling of Levi and the other four we saw last time is that they could have gone back to fishing anytime. Matthew could not. Tax collection was a purchased position that was under the authority of the Roman government. When you left someone else came in and took your place. Jewish tax collectors were hated and despised. Even more so than today. They were traitors to the nation and irredeemable to the religious leaders. What is the first thing Matthew does with his newfound faith? Invites all his friends and acquaintances to meet Jesus! Of course, just like today, the super religious people are all worked up about it. "How dare He eat and drink with these people!"

Mark 2:17

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."

The problem with those that were complaining is they thought they were righteous!

Romans 3:10-12, Psalm 14:1-3 and 53:1-3

“There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.”

That was the problem with them. They were so blind to their own need that they not able to receive the Savior. Oh, may we never get so high and mighty that we think we are all that and a bag of chips!

One more thing to the “Het Gets Us” folks. The messengers of the woke gospel that say that Jesus sat with sinners so that we need to just let people be who they are without any change.

Look back at verse 15...

Mark 2:15

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.**

They followed Him. Just like Matthew! People are watching you and are looking for something to believe in. They saw the Jesus that Matthew left all to follow. Is that the Jesus you are showing the world?

## The question of fasting

### Mark 2:18-22

Here again, the religious leaders are trying to find fault with Jesus. There must have been an appointed day that was established for fasting that had come up and they wanted to know why Jesus did not participate in it. Did you know that there was no requirement in the law to fast? It could be alluded to the day of atonement where it says to “Afflict” your souls in Leviticus 23:27. It is not a bad practice but when it becomes just a religious ritual it serves no purpose but to satisfy your flesh.

## God’s view on Fasting

### Isaiah 58:1-9

“Cry aloud, spare not;  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet;  
Tell My people their transgression,  
And the house of Jacob their sins.  
2 Yet they seek Me daily,  
And delight to know My ways,  
As a nation that did righteousness,  
And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.  
They ask of Me the ordinances of justice;  
They take delight in approaching God.  
3 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen?  
Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?’  
“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,

And exploit all your laborers.

4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate,  
And to strike with the fist of wickedness.

You will not fast as you do this day,  
To make your voice heard on high.

5 Is it a fast that I have chosen,  
A day for a man to afflict his soul?

Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush,  
And to spread out sackcloth and ashes?

Would you call this a fast,  
And an acceptable day to the Lord?

6 “Is this not the fast that I have chosen:  
To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,  
To let the oppressed go free,  
And that you break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;  
When you see the naked, that you cover him,  
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the morning,  
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,  
And your righteousness shall go before you;  
The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’

Now, the reason Jesus answers them the way He does is that He is the bridegroom. When we are with Jesus it is time to celebrate!

The fasting attached to the law did not need to happen anymore because the One who fulfilled it is here. He has come to do a new work.

Now, a lot of people like to take and apply these ideas to “new” ministries. “New Wine” or “Fresh Fire”. They would call us that still take the Bible at face value and hold it above experience as “Old Wineskins”. Dried up old fundamentalists that quench the spirit. They are taking this way out of context. Why? Because the “New” that He is referring to is the new covenant that is still in force today. It has not changed.

There is a principle though that we can take from this and that is that we need to remain flexible. Under the New Covenant Jesus saves in many different ways. He reaches past demographics, cultural divides, language barriers, financial classes, statistics, and any other man-made system to save anyone who will put their faith and trust in Him. The principle is that we need to be open to Him working in any area. He can save any and all! This was the basis of Chuck \* Smith’s Parable “Blessed are the Flexible, for they will not be broken”

Jesus and the Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28

Jesus did not ever sin. He never broke the law of Moses, but he did break their traditions. The religious leaders have all kind of sabbath laws that they created to make it more complicated than it was. And on top of all that they had all kinds of tricks and work

arounds to get around their own stupid rules they put in place. They knew from watching Him that it was the only place they could find fault. It's a good thing we don't have that going on today! "Which Bible version do you use?" or "What kind of music do you play?", "Closed communion or open?", "Do you dunk or sprinkle when you baptize?". "That pastor wears a tie or that one doesn't!", or this one "They actually let people drink coffee in the sanctuary!". We always want to make ourselves look better than them. And we wonder why God is always having to break our comfort zones!

Jesus uses an example in the Bible where God's real law was broken. In Matthew's account we read this...

Matthew 12:7

"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

The point that Jesus is making is the Law was not put in place to harm you or to keep you from any good. Quite the opposite. God wants good for us. The problem is that we are bad and in order to protect us He put the law in place. The sabbath was a gift not a burden. The pagans worked seven days a week and never had a day off.

Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your

son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

It was a blessing made for us. What does He mean that He is “Lord of the Sabbath”?

Have you ever wondered why we are not under the sabbath law anymore? We discussed this as we went through the Old Testament. Our study revealed that all of the Law pointed to Jesus.

Matthew 5:17

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

This includes the sabbath! What was the purpose of the Sabbath? A day of rest from our works. What does Jesus provide for us from His finished work on the Cross? Rest!

Jesus fulfilled the law for us!

Colossians 2:11-23

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of

God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 \* So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Have you allowed religion to get in the way of you coming to Christ? Do you still think that works can save you? Let me leave you again with the call from Jesus...

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Find rest in Christ Today!