

Week 5 The Gospel of Mark THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND

Mark 2:13-22

Read Mark 2:13–14

- What stands out to you?
- Given that Levi was probably viewed as corrupt, how would Jesus's inner circle have felt when Jesus invited Levi into their group?
- What lessons can we learn from Jesus's invitation to Levi?

When you think of what it takes to reach the world for Jesus, what would you say is your part in making that happen? Which part of that role makes you nervous, confused or fearful?

vv. 13–17. Why do you think that the Pharisees complained about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners? Why were they wrong to do so?

Levi collected taxes for the Roman puppet government the Jews detested so much. He worked for Herod, someone who thought of himself as king of the Jews. So for Jesus to feast with people like Levi—people known locally as “sinners,” an easy label to stick on those who didn't conform either to the strict religious requirements of the law or the strict political expectations of opposition to Herod and Rome—was simply outrageous (2:15-17). **So why does Jesus do this?**

The next event Mark reports deals with fasting, not feasting (2:18-22). The main times when Jews of Jesus' day fasted were days that reminded them of the great disasters of old, like the time when the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. In response to the people's question about fasting Jesus paints a picture of a wedding. The Old Testament, too, used the image of God being a bridegroom and Israel being his bride (who was sometimes rebellious and needed to be wooed back). **How is Jesus thus responding to the people's challenge?**

vv. 18–20. According to Jesus, why were his disciples not fasting? When would they begin to fast?

vv. 18–22. What do you think Jesus is teaching in the parable of the wine skins?

Review Mark 2:13–22. Why did Jesus reach out to the outcasts of Jewish society? Why not the leaders? What did this reveal about His mission on earth? How did it stir up trouble in Jewish society?

Looking back over this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

[Andy Stanley - Start at about 28 minutes IN](#)

[Chris Brown Mark 2. 13-17](#)

[Larry Osborne Mark 2:18-22](#)



YOU'RE
NOT
FAR

[Andy Stanley - Part 5](#)

Fear invites us to follow the path of self-preservation. However, if we follow that path long enough, we will neither preserve nor have anything to show for our lives. The original disciples of Jesus had the same tendencies at times. One one occasion, Jesus reminded them of what it means to follow him by saying four powerful words that still apply to his followers today.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever worked for someone who was intentional about leveraging their influence for your benefit? What was that like?

Read John 13:3–17.

- What stands out to you?
- We're told how Peter responded to this uncomfortable occasion. • How do you think you would have responded?

Read Mark 10:32–45.

- What stands out to you?
- Looking at verses 36–37, what is something we do that is similar to that?

What is one thing you can do this week to demonstrate not-so-with-you leadership at home? At work? At church? In the community?

Changing Your Mind

When you leverage your power and resources for the benefit of those with less power and resources, you're not far from the Kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.