

# Mark 2

Lesson for Sunday, June 11, 2023

**CHAPTER SUMMARY:** Jesus's enemies criticize Him on four separate occasions: two for doing what they think He should *not* do, and two for not doing what they think He *should* do.

1. The First Two Criticisms (vs. 1-17): What the Pharisees think Jesus should **NOT** be doing.
  - a. Jesus and a man on a **bed** (vs. 1-12)
    - i. Some helpful friends (vs. 1-5)
    - ii. Some hostile foes (vs. 6-10)
  - b. Jesus and a man in a **booth** (vs. 13-17)
    - i. The conversion of Levi (vs. 13-14)
    - ii. The celebration by Levi (vs. 15-17)
2. The Final Two Criticisms (vs. 18-28): What the Pharisees think Jesus **SHOULD** be doing.
  - a. They say He is not observing **fasting** (vs. 18-22)
    - i. Their rebuke (vs. 18)
    - ii. His response (vs. 19-22)
  - b. They say He is not observing the **Sabbath** (vs. 23-28)
    - i. Their rebuke (vs. 23-24)
    - ii. His response (vs. 25-28)

LESSON TEXT: Mark 2:1-12

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Ask & Discuss: *What would you say is the world's (or the US's) greatest problem?*
- ⇒ Follow-up: *What would you say is our greatest enemy?*
- ⇒ The world's greatest problem & enemy is sin. It separates us from God, renders us spiritually dead, and if left unforgiven, results in eternal death in a place called Hell.
- ⇒ The only solution to sin is Jesus.
  - He delivers from the penalty of sin – our justification.
  - He delivers from the power of sin – our sanctification.
  - He will deliver us from the presence of sin – our glorification.
- ⇒ Today's text reminds us who Jesus is and what only He can do.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. We Should Bring the Hurting to Jesus (vs. 1-5)
  - a. Jesus is back home from His preaching and ministry tour throughout Galilee (1:38-45). Verse 2 tells us that so many came to hear Him that no one could get in the door.
  - b. The hurting need to hear His teaching (vs. 1-2).
    - i. Verse 2 also tells us Jesus's message was "the word." His message was clearly defined in 1:14-15.
    - ii. Interestingly, "word" is the Greek *logos* which is used in John 1:1 to describe Jesus Himself.
    - iii. THOUGHT: This is one reason to bring people to church – so they can hear the Word! This is why our church puts so much emphasis on preaching and teaching the Bible. It's what hurting people need to hear!
    - iv. THOUGHT: It's also why we should come to church – to hear the Word!
  - c. The hurting need to experience His forgiveness (vs. 3-5).
    - i. During His preaching, four men showed up with a man who could not walk (vs. 3). Obviously, they believed that Jesus could heal their friend.
    - ii. Vs 4: Since they couldn't get in the door, they carried him to the roof, tore the roof apart and lowered their friend into the house.

- iii. Notice verse 5 that Jesus “saw their faith.” As a result, Jesus honored their faith by pouring out mercy on the paralyzed man.
  - iv. In verse 5 Jesus addresses the man as “Son” – a term of compassion. Then Jesus proclaimed that this man’s sins were forgiven.
  - v. The men probably didn’t come to Jesus for forgiveness, but for healing. Jesus gave them both! It’s a reminder that Jesus lovingly looked past the man’s surface need and met his deepest need.
  - vi. THOUGHT: Do we see like Jesus sees? Do we recognize that man’s greatest need is always spiritual? This will change how we see people!
  - vii. THOUGHT: Jesus honors faith. How much of our witness is motivated by faith in what Christ can do for others?
2. We Should See Jesus for Who He Really is (vs. 5-11)
- a. The Pharisee’s immediately accuse Jesus of blasphemy. To their credit, they at least understood the significance of Jesus’s words regarding forgiveness. Who is this man who claims to forgive sins?
  - b. Jesus is God (vs. 5-9)
    - i. Jesus’s words would have been blasphemous – unless He is in fact the Son of God! If Jesus can forgive sins, then Jesus is God.
    - ii. Another glimpse of Who He is can be seen in verses 8-9 when by His omniscience Jesus immediately knew what they were thinking.
    - iii. Jesus asked them two questions: Which is easier to say – your sins are forgiven or pick up your mat and walk? He knew that it was one thing to say it and another thing to prove it.
  - c. Jesus is the Son of Man (vs. 10-11)
    - i. Mark introduces this title in verse 10. The title is found 81 times in the Gospels, and seems to be the favorite title that Jesus would use for Himself.
    - ii. The title refers to the fact that Jesus is God incarnate (in the flesh). He is a human being who identifies with sinful humanity as He serves and suffers on our behalf. It emphasizes Jesus’s humanity.
    - iii. But in this text the title links His humanity with His deity by claiming the ability to forgive sin.
3. We Should Glorify Jesus for What He does (vs. 5, 10-12)
- a. Even with the opposition, this account has a happy ending! It reminds us that those who bring the hurting in faith to Jesus will not be disappointed.
  - b. Jesus forgives our sin (vs. 5)
    - i. His forgiveness of sin reminds us that this hurting man received more than he expected but also exactly what he needed!
    - ii. These men believed Jesus could meet their deepest needs. They were just wrong on what they thought they really needed.
    - iii. THOUGHT: Never forget: man’s greatest need is always their need for Jesus.
  - c. Jesus heals our diseases (vs. 10-12)
    - i. As a proof of His power to forgive sins (something we cannot see), Jesus healed the paralytic (something everyone could see.)
    - ii. In verse 10, Jesus is quite clear in His purpose for this healing.
    - iii. The response of the man and the crowd is appropriate. No one could deny what Jesus had done that day!

#### APPLICATION THOUGHTS:

- ⇒ What does this text teach us about God?
  - *Only God can forgive sins...*
  - *God is compassionate to those wounded by sin...*
  - *God honors those who come to Him in faith...*
- ⇒ What does this text teach us about sinful humanity?

- *Our greatest need is not physical healing but spiritual forgiveness...*
- *Often, those who are most religious are also the most judgmental...*
- ⇒ What does this text teach us about Jesus Christ?
  - *Jesus is God...*
- ⇒ What does God want me to know?
  - *That we need the ministry of the Word...*
  - *Only Jesus can forgive...*
  - *Jesus can forgive because Jesus is God...*
- ⇒ What does God want me to do?
  - *Act in faith...*
  - *Glorify Him for what He does for us in Jesus...*