

STUDY THREE MARK 2:1 - 3:6

Q1 Who has a constant presence in each of these 5 portraits? Keep watching them as the study unfolds.

As we study this passage, which you may have read so many times before, try to maintain a fresh outlook and be ready to learn.

Q2 If you were catastrophically injured and your 4 faithful friends dramatically brought you before this famous healer, would you be surprised if Jesus' first words to you were "Son, your sins are forgiven"?

Q3 When someone is wronged by another, who alone can forgive the wrong doer? How does this relate to God and us?

(read 1 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:13-15 and consider: What is easier – to heal or to forgive sins?)

Q4 What are the responses of all the different people present at this miracle?

Q5 What is the crucial point of this incident?

Tax Collectors in Roman-occupied Israel were a bit like Nazi collaborators in Occupied Europe during WW2. Always took their own cut, on top of the taxes demanded by Herod and Caesar.

They were considered unclean morally and despised by their countrymen. Levi, in his public booth would have noticed the events in Capernaum

Q6 Yet, Jesus SEES Levi, Mark 2:14.

What is so remarkable about the Jesus' call of Levi incident?

Consider the meal at Levi's house and why Mark includes this in his gospel. What is happening? Who is there? Jesus team of disciples has just received a new member.

Q7 Who is Jesus choosing to be His followers?

If we allow Jesus to see the real us, how would He react to us?

From stage left enter the Pharisees.

Q8 What priorities do the Pharisees have?

What is their view of God and His acceptance of people into His Kingdom?

Q 9 How does Jesus regard Himself? Has Jesus left Heaven and come to earth to be a moral teacher?

What sort of people is Jesus looking for as the Doctor?

Read again Mark 2:18-22

The OT Law required the Israelites to fast only once a year for the Day of Atonement as part of confession of sin. Other OT instances of fasting relate to sorrow. By the first Century, Pharisees had made weekly or bi-weekly fasting an important part of Jewish Ceremonial Law.

Q10 What is Jesus teaching in this bridal image?

Q11 What is Jesus suggesting about Himself and His Kingdom by teaching the 2 parables about shrunken cloth and new wineskins in 2: 21-22?

Q12 In Mark 2: 27- Mark 3:1-6, we again see Jesus on the Sabbath. What is the general atmosphere in the synagogue?

Q13 What is so shocking about v.6 after what has just occurred? What had Jesus' opponents forgotten?

How are they blind?

* Who can you share what you have learned about Jesus today with?

**Who can you bring to Jesus like the faithful friends of 2:3?

PRAYER IN YOUR GROUPS

Consider areas of your Christian walk that resemble the ways of the Pharisees in these incidents? Pray about these.

Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with someone in particular

NOTES

If you want to study more about Mark 2: 23-28, you could consider:

a. In verses 23-28 the Pharisees appear yet again, to seek to judge Jesus. What is the cause of this particular controversy?

See Deuteronomy 23:25 and 1 Samuel 21:1-6. (1 Samuel 21:7-9 is totally off topic, but fascinating)

b. How does Jesus' attitude towards the Law and the Sabbath differ from those of the Pharisees?

c. Does reading Exodus 20: 8-11 help you understand what Jesus is teaching?

So then, by using the title 'Son of Man' of Himself, what is Jesus claiming, in regard to the Sabbath?