

Lesson Notes: Mark 2

Introductory Questions

1. To which character in the chapter's events did you relate best?
2. In Mark 2:1-17, Mark recalls several situations where the religious authorities (e.g., scribes or Pharisees) called Jesus into question. What were they concerned about? Why do you think Jesus bothered them so much?
3. What would Jesus do today that would offend most "church" people? What type of offensive people would he hang out with?
4. How is the New Covenant like new wineskins?

Jesus forgives and heals the Rooftop Paralytic

- Characteristics and values of faithful friends
- On the stretcher or carrying a friend?
- The Deeper Need ~ TK

Jesus' Identity

Levi follows Jesus

- Matthew = Levi. Who was he?
- Dinner Party
- Pharisees and "sinners"
- Purpose Statement

Jesus' Identity

Fasting and Feasting

Fasting, Feasting

Old and New

- a proper match (cloth) and a sewing example...
- new wine into new wineskins

Jesus' Identity

Application Questions

Has Jesus met your deeper need? Tell the story. If not, are you ready for Him to deal with your Sin?

In what ways are you more like either Levi, the Pharisees, or the Paralytic?

How do you celebrate Jesus?

In your small group, feel free to discuss any of the Application Questions above or the Discussion Questions below.

Discussion Questions

1. What about your study of Mark, reading of the King's Cross, or Suz's lecture touched you, gave you new insight into God and His ways, or made a difference in your life?
2. In King's Cross, Tim Keller suggests that Jesus purposely forgave the paralytic's sins *before* he healed him because Jesus took care of the man's real need rather than give him what may have been the man's "heart's desire." Jesus addressed the paralytic's real need instead of what the paralytic may have thought would bring him happiness.

Think of things of which you might say, "If only I had this, I'd be happy." Which of these might Jesus have deliberately withheld from you? Why do you suppose he has done this?

Why might this withholding be a blessing?

3. Keller quotes Cynthia Heimel from The Village Voice (King's Cross, p. 29):

I think when God wants to play a really rotten practical joke on you, he grants you your deepest wish.

How have you seen this true in your life?