

Jesus the King- week 3

October 29, 2017

Mark 2:1-12

Warming Up

1. If your group has chosen an OBF missionary to pray for, introduce them to the group by sharing a little of the profile the missions team prepared. If your group does not have a missionary yet, chat with Brian Woodruff or Derek Whalen.
2. As a group, now might be a good time to think about how you will celebrate Thanksgiving or Christmas together. Or, how you might serve in some capacity together over the holidays.

Knowing the Gospel...

3. In ch. 1 we saw Jesus' authority over the scribes (1:21-22), over Satan (1:23-28) and over sickness (1:29-34). Now, in chapter 2 we see Jesus claim authority to forgive sins. Check out these OT passages and discuss how they shaped the scribes' opinion of Jesus. How were the scribes right in their comments? How were they wrong? 2 Samuel 12:13, Is. 1:18, Ps. 51:7-12, Is. 43:25, Jer. 31:34, Micah 7:18-19.
4. On what basis does Jesus have the authority to forgive sins? (Mark 2:7, Eph. 1:7, 2 Cor. 5:21, Hebrews 9:26-28, Heb. 4:15-16, Rom. 3:21-24, Matthew 16:16, John 10:30). Discuss the finality of Jesus' sacrifice (Heb. 10:10-18). How do you think these verses speak to Christians who sometimes struggle with long-term shame and guilt over sin? See also 1 John 1:9.
5. Speculate a little. How do you think the disciples were feeling at this point in time after they had been with Jesus through the first 2 chapters of Mark? Do you think they might be excited, hesitant, confused etc. How would these feelings change by Mark 15? Mark 16? How has your perception and understanding of Jesus changed over the time you have followed him, from early on until now? What have you learned about Him? From Scripture? From Experience?

Living the Gospel...

6. Review Mark 1:14-15, 21-22, 38-39, 2:1-2, 2:13. What seems to be the main activity of Jesus' ministry? What else did Jesus do in chapter 1 and the first part of chapter 2? How can we properly understand the relationship between Jesus' teaching ministry and his healing ministry? Support with Scripture. Do you think 1 is more important than the other? If so, why? If not, why not? What is the purpose of each of these aspects of his ministry? How can this inform and instruct us in our own priorities in ministry both as individuals and a church?

7. In what ways do Christians sometimes still try to "make up" for sin in their lives? How do we sometimes wrongly deal with guilt and shame? What do these wrong methods of dealing with sin say about our understanding of Jesus? In what ways can we cultivate a proper response to sin in our lives?

8. The first 2 chapters of Mark have focused on the authority of Jesus. Where in your life do you struggle to submit to his authority? In what ways can you follow Him more closely and live under His rule? Where do you find it tough to yield to Him?

For college students:

- There are lots of opportunities for students to 'minister' to people. Some are to help them physically (serving meals for the homeless, digging wells for people w/o water, visiting people in a nursing home etc.). Some are to help them spiritually (sharing the gospel, teaching kids at a VBS etc.). Which one is more important...the physical or the spiritual? Why? What would a healthy relationship between these two look like?

- Where in your life do you struggle to let Jesus rule as your absolute authority? In what areas of life might you struggle to submit to Him? How can you yield to him in those areas? How might you be able to find help and accountability in those areas?

Telling the Gospel...

10. Do you think it is ever ok so appeal to people to trust Jesus because he can solve their personal problems? If so, provide Scriptural support. If not, why not? Provide Scriptural support.

11. Spend some time praying for people in your lives who don't yet know Christ.