

Jesus the King- week 4

November 5, 2017

Mark 2:23-3:6

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. What do you think were the core reasons the Pharisees were so mad at Jesus? (2:24, 3:2, 6). Check out these verses also: Why did they have such a hard time with Jesus' disciples eating grain or Jesus healing on the Sabbath? Whose laws was Jesus actually breaking, if any? What did the Pharisees seem to misunderstand? (Matt. 23:23-24, Deut. 6:4-6, Lev. 19:18, 34, Matt. 15:8-9, Deut. 23:24-25, Mark 2:28, John 10:22-30).
4. Why do you think Jesus was so mad at the scribes and Pharisees (v.5)? Read Matt. 23:1-35. What seems to be the main "beefs" that Jesus has with the Pharisees? How will the scribes and Pharisees fulfill Jesus' prophecy in verses 29-34?
5. Read Mark 12:28-34. Why do you think Jesus tells the man he is "not far" from the kingdom of God? Why might he be "closer" than other scribes and Pharisees? What do you think is still keeping this man from the kingdom of God?

Living the Gospel...

6. Consider your own church journey. What types of things have you experienced that churches do well and not so well in keeping relationship with Jesus and the core of the gospel message the key focus. In what ways have you experienced “rules and religion” taking the place of true discipleship? (It’s probably good to keep names and places out of the discussion to protect the innocent...and guilty☺)

7. As you consider your own relationship with Christ, what “extrabiblical” rules and legalistic tendencies might you struggle with or have you struggled with in the past? What types of things do you have a tendency to see as spiritual markers of maturity that possibly aren’t? What types of things might you depend on to give you a good standing with God that aren’t in Scripture? How has your understanding of Jesus and the gospel changed the way you think about those things?

8. Read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. What did the man’s question to Jesus reveal about his understanding of eternal life (v.25)? How do you think Jesus’ answer to him in v. 28 made him feel? Why do you think the man felt like he needed to justify himself? What was Jesus’ ultimate answer to the man? How does Jesus ultimately correct the man’s incorrect question in v.29? How did the scribes in the synagogue in Mark 3 miss this point?

For college students:

- Discuss the nature and elements of the gospel message. How do each of these concepts contribute to an accurate understanding of the gospel: sin, separation from God, inability, depravity, holy, grace, mercy, gift, filthy wrags, good works, faith, trust, repentance, confession.
- Why do you think legalism can present such a danger to a person coming to Christ for salvation? Why might it be a huge hurdle?
- Why do you think legalism can still be a danger for a Christian (someone who has truly trusted in Jesus for salvation)? In what ways might you still struggle with legalism in your life?

Telling the Gospel...

10. How would you explain to a non-christian that being a Christian is more than just following a set of rules? How would you explain the difference between a genuine desire for righteousness and just following rules?

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