

Mark 2:18-22

3 Responses To The Question Of Why Jesus Came (Why Do We Have Christmas?)



Background/Context

- Here, Mark continues to show us Jesus in action with the (now) 5 Disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, John and Matthew)
- Chapter 1: Jesus popular and very successful
- Chapters 2 & 3: Ministry of Jesus grows, but rising opposition
- Verses here; Jesus revealing He is the Messiah, the Promised One who fulfills all the OT prophecies
- Jesus affirms He is the Son of God who has all authority and knowledge
- Mark shows ministry event where we see why Jesus came into the world

Provide Guidance For Living

- (v.18) Group comes to Jesus with question about “fasting”
- “Fasting”; voluntarily going without food (sometimes water) for purpose of having more time/energy to focus on devotion to God
- Disciples of John & Disciples of Pharisees fasting, but not Jesus’ followers
- Group seeks guidance, direction, and clarification; need information and truth
- Wanted info on what was right in God’s eyes; so came to Jesus for guidance
- Same available today

- Matt. 7:7, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”
- Ps. 32:8, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”



Supply Joy In A World Filled With Sorrow

- (vv.19-20) Jesus faithfully answers; uses question to share answer and go further with revelation
- Jesus didn't reject fasting; actually gave instructions for; Matthew 6:16-18
- There is a balance of timing with fasting that is guided by the Holy Spirit in believer's life
- Jewish wedding; "reception" lasted at least a week; celebration and joy for many days
- Just like wedding is not appropriate time to fast, so too when Jesus on earth, time of great joy

- Luke 2:10-11, “Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’”

The Daily Edit OUR WORLD FROM A UNIQUE POINT OF VIEW



MARIO TAMA - GETTY

Despite disaster, a fervent song

Eldridge Young, whose house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, sings during Sunday services at New Israel Baptist Church in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. The church was flooded with 13 feet of water in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina but has since been rebuilt.

TODAY'S MOST COMPELLING IMAGES

'The Daily Edit,' at www.charlotteobserver.com, is updated twice daily to highlight the most interesting photos to cross our desk.

To Bring Regeneration, Not Just Reform

- (vv.21-22) Jesus stating, eternal life comes from relationship, not following rules
- Uses 2 analogies; patch on garment and wine in wineskin
- Overall message is that Jesus came to establish something new; not that old is no longer valuable, but that new is now in operation
- New piece of cloth makes tear on old garment worse because it shrinks when washed
- New wine bursts an old, stiff wineskin due to fermentation
- Both picture; salvation is not from a mixture of Old and New Covenants; rules and rituals still valuable as guide, but eternal life comes from relationship with Jesus through faith

- Hebrews 9:12, “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”
- Hebrews 10:4, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”

