



## The Book of Mark

Session 3: Mark 2:1 - 3:6

Last week we laid down the challenge to follow Jesus Christ (be his disciple). This week we will be looking at a different challenge – that Jesus is looking for those who recognize their sin.

Read Mark 2:1-12

These men go to great lengths to get their friend to Jesus. They can't go through the crowd, so they climb a roof and cut open a hole in it and lower their friend.

Question: To what lengths are you willing to go in order for a friend to come to Christ?

We truly have to admire qualities of their intent for this man to come to Christ.

1. They were deeply concerned for their friend.
2. They had faith to believe Jesus could and would meet his needs.
3. They didn't just pray about it, they did something about it.
4. They didn't let difficulties discourage them.
5. They also worked together to do something different.

Question: Which quality challenges you in your own faith journey?

Jesus went to the heart of the problem. It was sin. Not all sickness is caused by sin (see John 9:1-3).

Question: We all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. What sins are you dealing with in your life, and do you have the faith that Jesus can forgive you?

For the Jewish leaders, miraculous healing in the name of God's kingdom was one thing. But forgiveness? Jesus had overstepped his boundaries. Jesus goes right after the challenge of people's conceptions of what their problem really was - a world stained with sin.

Question: Jesus not only can heal a man's body, but also his soul. How has Jesus been healing your soul? Have you allowed Him to restore you?

Read Mark 2:13-17

Jesus came to earth to deal with man's sin. Eating with tax collectors and sinners. The religious leaders soon lose sight that Jesus came for the sick, not the healthy.

Question: Jesus comes with a complete care of sick hearts. He pays the bill! How would you describe Jesus as the Great Physician who heals the hearts who come to him?

There are three kinds of patients whom Jesus cannot heal.

1. Those who do not know Him.
2. Those who know about Him but refuse to trust Him.
3. Those who will not admit they need Him.

Question: Unless we admit that we are sinners, deserving God's judgement, we cannot be saved. Who are you praying for in which their hearts might turn back to God? Share about that burden on your heart.

Read Mark 2:18-22

The Pharisees were being self-righteous and legalistic when it came to fasting. Jesus came back to himself being the bridegroom and it wasn't time to fast but to enjoy the company of the Lord and to fellowship with one another.

Question: How is your joy level of your heart? Do others see that joy or do they see a saddened heart carrying the weight of this world?

Jesus taught two important lessons about his ministry.

1. He came to save sinners.
2. He came to bring gladness, not sadness.

Read Mark 2:23-27

The Pharisees were working through a ritual (prohibiting work on the Sabbath). Jesus returned to God's original intent – rest and provision for his people.

Question: What does this have to do with how we live our lives in the Sabbath? Is this day used to rest in the Lord or is it just another religious ritual?

Read Mark 3:1-6

Jesus was demonstrating he was Lord over the Sabbath. The Pharisees were waiting to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. It wasn't a matter of a question of "Could he?", but "Would he?"

Question: How is your heart condition when you see a neighbor or someone working on Sunday? Are you condemning or do you speak life?

Your assignment: Write out the areas of your life where you tend to fight control. Then ask why. Think about what you might be missing as a result of hardening your heart to yourself and to God?

Next week: read Mark 3:7 – 4:34

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