

Study of the Gospel of Mark

Chapter 2

In the first chapter of Mark's Gospel we saw that Jesus' ministry was hindered by the crowds who were coming to be healed by him. In this chapter we find Jesus facing a new challenge: growing opposition by the Jewish leaders.

1. Once again Mark tells us what Jesus' primary purpose was. While Jesus heals again in this chapter, what does Mark describe as the main work of Jesus in the following verses?

A. 2:2: _____

B. 2:13: _____

We are told in 2:1 that Jesus returned to Capernaum and the report was spread that Jesus was "at home" (see also Matthew 9:1). This indicates that Jesus had moved from Nazareth, where He had grown up, to Capernaum, which was along the coast of the Sea of Galilee.

2. In the account of the healing of the paralytic, Jesus notices something about the friends of the paralytic.

What does he notice (2:5)? _____

How is this shown in their actions? _____

3. In whose name and by whose power does Jesus forgive the sins and heal the paralyzed man (2:10-11)?

A. How is this different from the healing that the disciples of Jesus did? (Compare Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6; Acts 9:34; Acts 16:18)

4. Notice the progression of opposition to Jesus in this chapter by the Jewish leaders. How was their opposition against Jesus revealed in the following verses:

A. 2:6-7: _____ (was the accusation stated?)

B. 2:16: _____ (to whom was this accusation addressed?)

C. 2:18: _____ (to whom was this accusation addressed?)

D. 2:24: _____ (what was the accusation here?)

5. The question about fasting was one that revealed how the Jewish leaders had added to God's Old Testament Laws. In the Old Testament God had only commanded one day of fasting a year - on the Day of Atonement. But the Pharisees had turned fasting from a sign of humility and repentance into a means of salvation. They insisted that righteous people must fast twice a week (compare Luke 18:12) and turned fasting into work-righteousness.

Although fasting has been abused throughout the years, it can be beneficial. Fasting played an important role in the Old Testament and New Testament. Read: Judges 20:26; 1 Samuel 7:6; 2 Samuel 12:15-23; Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 9:3; Jonah 3:5; Matthew 6:16-18; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23.

Should we make use of fasting today? _____

Why or why not? _____

6. In 2:20 we Jesus makes a veiled prediction of what would happen in the future.

What was Jesus predicting? _____

At the beginning of His ministry Jesus did not speak opening about His impending death. But He would become more clear about His purpose as He neared the end of His ministry. See how many passages you can find in the Gospel of Mark where Jesus speaks of His coming death.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

7. What did Jesus mean when He said: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath" (2:27-28)?
