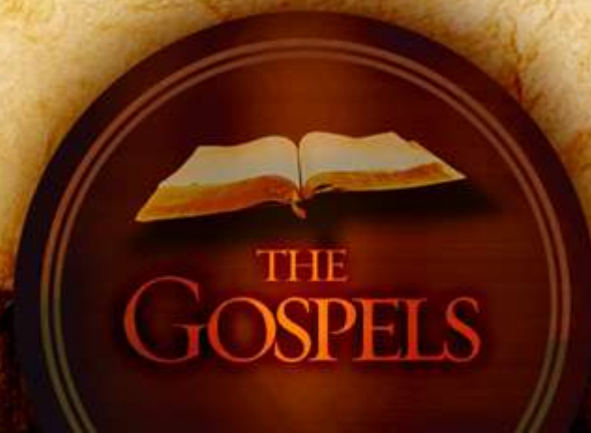




MARK

The Gift of God





Lesson 2

Jesus Receives Acclaim and Opposition (Mark 2-3)



Theme Verse

Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).



GOAL

We seek to learn how Jesus dealt with those who sought His healing, as well as those who opposed it.



What's Going On Here?

As Jesus' preaching and healing ministry progressed, it drew much attention. On the one hand, Jesus was often surrounded by crowds who sought to be taught and healed by Him. They were the spiritually and physically sick who recognized their sickness and their need for the healing Jesus brought.



On the other hand, religious leaders cast a critical eye on what Jesus was doing and saying. They were righteous in their own eyes and saw no need for Jesus' healing. In this lesson we will look at how Jesus dealt with both groups of people.

Searching the Scriptures

Mark 2:13-17

1. What objection to Jesus did the teachers of the law voice here? Why?
2. How did Jesus respond?

Searching the Scriptures

We know that Saint Matthew was a tax collector, and Christian tradition has always identified him with Levi, mentioned in Mark 2:14.

Searching the Scriptures

Thus Matthew is thought to have been the name that Christ gave Levi at his calling.

(This cannot be verified but is from tradition)

Searching the Scriptures

Matthew was a tax collector at Capernaum, which is traditionally designated as the place of his birth. Tax collectors were despised in the ancient world, especially among the Jews at the time of Christ, who saw the imposition of taxes as a mark of their occupation by the Romans.

Searching the Scriptures

(Even though Matthew collected taxes for King Herod, a portion of those taxes would be passed on to the Romans.)

See handout.

Searching the Scriptures



Searching the Scriptures

Mark 2:15-16

What fault did the Pharisees find with Jesus eating with Matthew and his piers?

Who are the Pharisees? (See handout)

Searching Scriptures

What did Jesus mean by saying: “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Searching Scriptures

1. Read 2:18-22. What point was Jesus making in His response to the question about fasting?
2. Who is the bridegroom? Who is the bride.
3. Why the image of marriage.

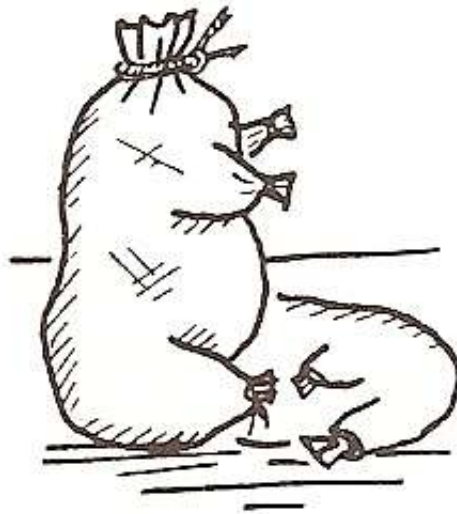
Searching Scriptures

Mark 2:21-22

The issues of Patches

The issues of Wineskins

Searching Scriptures



Goatskin wine "bottle"

Searching Scriptures

The Jew made his wine bottle of a goatskin, sewed together where it had been cut to remove it from the carcass, to form a sack which could be tied at the neck and hung up. The resilience of the new rawhide took up whatever expansion might result from the process of fermentation.

Searching Scriptures

No one would think of putting “new wine into old bottles,” since the old dried and cracked skins from the previous year were unsafe.

Searching Scriptures

Mark 2:2:23-28. How did Jesus correct the Pharisees' understanding of the Sabbath? What did He proclaim about Himself? What implications did this have?

See Genesis 2:1-3

Exodus 20:8-11

1 Samuel 21:1-9

Searching Scriptures

Read 3:1-6. What is the answer to the question Jesus asked in 3:4 (see Hosea 6:6 “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.))?

Why didn't the Pharisees answer?

Searching Scriptures

Why was Jesus angry and deeply distressed?

How did the Pharisees further display their hardness of heart? Why?

Searching Scriptures

Read 3:7-12. Note that the demons' statement is not a confession of faith but an acknowledgement of who Jesus is-the Son of God.

Searching Scriptures

Read 3:13-19. Just as God's Old Testament people began as the 12 sons of Jacob, so the new people of God that Jesus was forming would begin with 12. Thus while Jesus was building a new community, His choice of 12 apostles shows the continuity between this new community and God's Old Testament people. See Revelation 21:9-14.

Here, Oh My Lord

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying
And the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly;
Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you,
"Here am I. Send me, send me!"