

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 2
FAME IN THE DESERT

Jesus's fame was spreading so much that Mark tells us "Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every quarter (1:45b)." Jesus was becoming well known for His healings and casting out demons. Jesus was also becoming known to the religious leaders and opposition to Jesus and His ministry was beginning to spread.

MEMORY VERSE

When Jesus heard it, He said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' **Mark 2:17**

Before reading Mark 2, ask the Holy Spirit to help you draw closer to Jesus and consider how earth-shaking His teaching and healing would have been. What verse stood out to you the most, or what attribute caused you to love Him more?

FORGIVENESS OF SIN

1. Jesus was back in Capernaum and the news had spread "that Jesus was in the house." Describe the scene. Luke tells us that the power of the Lord to heal was present (Luke 5:17), but what was Jesus focused on instead (Mark 2:1-2)?
2. Four men came to the house seeking Jesus. What were they trusting Jesus could do? What was their obstacle? How did they persevere to get their friend to Jesus (vv.3-4)?

PERSONAL

How compassionate are you willing to persevere to bring a friend to Jesus? To what lengths would you go through to bring a soul to Jesus?

3. Jesus no doubt looked up; what did He see? What did He say to the paralytic (v.5)? Why did Jesus focus on forgiveness first rather than the physical healing?
4. What was the reaction of the scribes in the crowd? What did they accuse Jesus of? Why was that true about their thought (vv.6-7)?
5. Jesus used this moment to speak truth to these religious leaders. What did Jesus want these scribes to learn about Him (vv.8-9)?

Fill in the blanks:

“But that you may _____ that the _____ of _____ has _____ on earth to _____ sins (v.10).”

The title Son of Man is emphasizing that Jesus is fully human. The title Son of God (John 20:31) emphasizes that He is fully God. As God’s Son, Jesus has the authority to forgive sin. As a man, He can fully identify with our deepest needs and sufferings and help us overcome sin. See Mark 8:31.

6. Now Jesus turns to the paralytic man; what life changing words did He say to the man on the bed? What did the man immediately do in response? How did the crowd react (vv.11-12)?

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus affirmed His deity not only by forgiving the man’s sins and healing his body, but also by applying to Himself the title Son of Man.”

Warren Wiersbe

7. Jesus then went out by the sea continuing in His ministry of teaching the multitudes. As Jesus passed by, who did He see? What was his profession? Why would his profession be notable (v.13)?
8. What were the only words Jesus spoke to Levi (Matthew)? How did he respond to the invitation (v.14)?

<p>DID YOU KNOW? Levi is another name for Matthew, the disciple who wrote the Gospel of Matthew.</p>

PERSONAL

Both men, the paralytic and Matthew, immediately “arose” and followed Jesus. Where have you hesitated in arising and following Jesus? How have you experienced the forgiveness Jesus offers? How has Jesus changed the course of your life?

9. Immediately after following Jesus, Levi held a dinner with Jesus as the guest of honor. What kind of people were present at this dinner (v.15)?
10. What ignited the opposition of the Religious Leaders at this dinner?
11. How did Jesus respond to their criticism (v.17)? (Also see Matt. 9:12-13.)
12. Which is more important: physical healing or forgiveness of sin? Why? (See Psalm 51:1-6; Isaiah 59:2) How have you experienced both?

JESUS QUESTIONED ON FASTING

13. What was the question the disciples of John and of the Pharisee's asked Jesus (v.18)?
14. How did Jesus answer? Who is the bridegroom? Who are the friends? When did Jesus say that the friends would then fast? What was Jesus referring to (vv.19-20)?
15. The Bible talks a lot about fasting. Look up the following verses on fasting. What new thoughts have you gained?
- Luke 18:10-12
 - Acts 13:2
 - Zechariah 7:12
 - Psalm 35:13

DID YOU KNOW?

Both the Old Testament and New Testament teach the value of fasting, which is abstaining from food and drink in order to focus on prayer and seek God's will. Fasting is mentioned over 70 times in the Bible. There are two types of fasting, public and private; both types offer spiritual benefits.

“Jesus gives two illustrations of how He came to offer a new life of love and fellowship with Him. Jesus came not to polish up the law or add to it but to do something brand new. He didn't come to patch up a new garment but to give us a new garment.” *J. Vernon McGee*

16. How does Jesus's illustration of the old and new garments and the old and new wineskins introduce having relationship with Jesus verses the Pharisees' approach to God (vv.21-22)? (Isaiah 61:10.)

SABBATH DAY CONTROVERSY

17. What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of (vv.23-24)?

18. Was this unlawful? Read Deuteronomy 23:24-25.

19. Jesus refused to argue with the Pharisees. How did He answer their accusations (vv.26-27)?

20. What did Jesus declare to the Pharisees about the Sabbath (vv.27-28)?

PERSONAL

The Pharisees had become rigid like old wineskins. They could not accept that faith in Jesus could not be contained by or limited to man-made ideas and rules. Our hearts can become rigid preventing us from accepting and or allowing the new life Jesus offers. Are you an old wineskin today?

DWELL ON THIS

“No one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.” Mark 2:22

