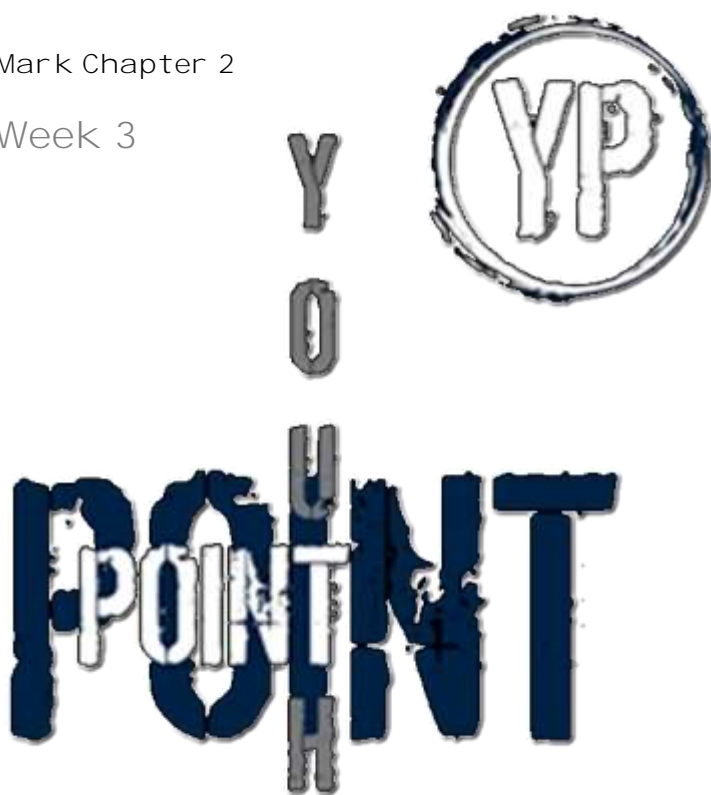




Mark Chapter 2

Week 3



Why?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
— A.W. Tozer

The purpose of this study on the gospel of Mark isn't just to study something—it's to learn about Jesus, it's to learn about the guy who was fully man and fully God. To see what was written about him by a guy who was just a kid when everything was going down. To compare what he says to what everyone else said about Jesus later on. So, we aren't really studying the book of Mark; we are studying Jesus = Christ.

Plan

So, the 'plan' - well it's to go through the book week by week, chapter by chapter.

This study guide is to be used on a daily basis to spend five to fifteen minutes per day learning about God.

It's based on a five day week, so that it correlates with your school week. Giving you either two days off or two days to catch up. :-)

On a side note:
Unless otherwise stated all the verses are from the English Standard Version



= *turn the page*

Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 1

A new week, a new chapter.

Things to notice or take note of while your reading:

- ⇒ No recoup time with Jesus' healings
 - ◆ People get right up and go
 - ◆ It's not 'oh I'm healed. I'm getting better' it's 'I'm healed. Let's GO!'
- ⇒ JB's disciples were different from JC's disciples
 - ◆ In what way?
 - ◆ Why?

Mark 2

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."



Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 1 continued

One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

Do you know the story as to why David had to flee and why he was hungry?

For the whole story read 1 Samuel 20 & 21.

For the really, really abbreviated version just keep reading.

Well, the story goes like this: God made Saul king because the nation of Israel wanted a king, they wanted to be just like all the other nations around who had a 'real king' one that they could see. God warned them, but they didn't listen. So, Saul ends up displeasing God and God removes his blessing from him and chooses the little runt of the family David to be king. Well, Saul goes a bit nuts, okay maybe not just a bit, but a lot nuts. He gets super jealous with everything that David accomplishes and well really everything about David makes Saul jealous. So, he tries to kill him multiple times. The time that Jesus is referring to above, is immediately after Jonathon (Saul's son / best buds with David) tests Saul to see if he would kill David - Saul fails the test. So, Jonathon tells David that he better scram. Therefore, David takes off without any provisions for himself or his guys/soldiers.

So of the things that you took notice of while you were reading:

- ◆ What makes Jesus so different from everyone else?

- ◆ What characteristics of Jesus were made apparent to you?

Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 2

Jesus granting forgiveness for sins! OH NO!!!

Mark 2:1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Matthew 9:1-8

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Luke 5:17-26

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”



Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 2 continued

So, the story is practically the same in the three books - Jesus is doing his usual thing - teaching - gathered together with a bunch of people (all sinners, but some think that they're a bit more holier than they ought) at a house (technically, it doesn't say that it's his house just that it's a house in his home city) and these other people who know a paralyzed man hear that he's in town. How would they hear? Why would they be bringing this guy to Jesus in the first place? Cause the word was out - that Jesus guy, you know the son of the carpenter - well that guy can heal people, he's been going all around getting rid of demons and diseases.

But, is that what he actually did in this case?

The first thing that Jesus tells the guy isn't that he's healed, it isn't that he's going to have to pay for the damage to the roof, it isn't anything of a number of things that could be listed here, but what He did say was "your sins are forgiven."

Your Sins Are Forgiven.

That's the one thing that we all need, yet no other religion can offer. Our greatest need is to escape God's wrath because unforgiven sin leads us straight to hell. All other religions are based on/have us seeking: ethics, morality, social responsibility, family values, love, peace, fulfillment, satisfaction, and maybe even happiness, BUT NONE of them guarantees that your sins are forgiven. They all have you working towards it, but Jesus just tells you 'yeah sure your forgiven.'

At this point Jesus has demonstrated his authority over disease, demons, and now sins. This infuriates the Pharisees. Why? These guys knew the law, they knew that no one could forgive sins, except for God. They would of known the passage in Proverbs 17:15 that says "He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD."

Jesus saw their faith. The faith that the four guys had was the normal faith that we put into anything - when you went to bed last night (that is if last night was a school night) you had faith that your alarm/cellphone was going to wake you up in the morning. When you go to a doctor you place your faith in him/her that they will heal you. That's the kind of faith that Jesus saw in those guys, but it was also a faith that was in action. Those guys didn't just get there and say 'oh well there are way to many people and we will never get to Him', no instead they had to work to get this guy up on the roof, tear chunks of it out, and lower him in the correct spot. That took work. Remember James 2:17 "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." Their faith was linked with their works - it didn't come from their works, but their works sure made it visible.

Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 3

Levi, Levi, wait Matthew???

Both Mark and Luke call him Levi, but Matthew wrote about himself as Matthew.

Why???

Mark 2:13-17

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Luke 5:27-32

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

So, we find out that Matthew or Levi was a tax collector. Well tax collectors were the worst of the worst. They were in cohorts with the Romans. Given that Levi is a Jewish name that would of meant that Levi would of sold his soul, so to speak, to the Romans because he would be collecting taxes for the Romans from Jews - his own people. Tax collectors had quite a bit of money because they got to keep a cut of what they collected, but were hated by everyone in town. So, it is suspected that Levi changed his name to Matthew as a sign of his new nature and also as a way to get away from his reputation/ to hid the fact that he had been a tax collector. Name changes actually happen quite a bit throughout the Bible usually as a sign of change from their old nature/self to their new nature/self.

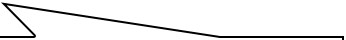


Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 3 continued

So, these verses aren't just about a guy changing his name - they are about the fact that Jesus died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6)

This is a quote that I thought captured it:



The Christian faith is not for good people, it's for people who know they're bad. Salvation is not for people who think they are righteous, it is for the people who know they're not righteous. It's for people who hunger and thirst after righteousness, not people who think they've achieved it.

The Pharisees couldn't understand that because they were super moral people who wouldn't even go near a sinner even to teach him the Law. They grouped tax collectors in with murderers, adulterers, and all the other bad people. So, for them to see Jesus hanging out with Matthew and other tax collectors just didn't make sense to them.

What's your take on this passage?

Week 3 — Mark 2

Day 4

Fasting - Questioned!!!

Mark 1:18-22

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Matthew 9:14-17

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

Luke 5:33-39

And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

First thing to notice in this passage is that John B's guys were fasting. Why? Because Jesus wasn't instantly accepted by JB's guys. Their ministries didn't really merge.

Then, the Pharisees did stuff to be seen by others and to be thought of as holy, so they saw Jesus' guys eating and were like 'whoa what's going on here?' They would be the guys who would go to a party - with food all around - and be like 'oh no I'm fasting.'

To that Jesus would probably just say 'Whatever!!' - actually what He did say was:

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:16-18)

Jesus just keeps sticking it to the Pharisees. No doubt they hated him for it.

Lord of the Sabbath**Mark 2:23-28**

One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

Luke 6:1-5

On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” And Jesus answered them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

Lord of the Sabbath - that's what Jesus claims. In the first verse of Mark we see him proclaim to be the Son of God, but now 'the Son of Man' and 'lord of the Sabbath.' That would infuriate the Pharisees. Why? Well, perhaps because he was claiming to have authority over that which only God had authority over. God made the earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th, which he proclaimed as the Sabbath. Later on he also gave a commandment that institute the Sabbath as a holy day of rest. And now Jesus, this guy from a tiny little town, the son of a carpenter, was proclaiming that He was lord over something that only God could rule over/established/owns! No way! Blasphemy is what they would have been thinking, but there he was laying it down.

P.S. Earlier in the week, you read about what David did with bread that wasn't lawful for him to eat. But, did you understand what the deal was with the grainfields? Why did Luke make sure to add in that the disciples got the grain with their hands? Read Deuteronomy 23:25 to find out.

NOTES:

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

It's not just studying and accumulating knowledge, but studying to know Him and be able to do His will. It's studying Him because of how awesome he is and how much you love him that you can't do anything else.

I heard a quote about what happens to us each morning - that we wake up with Satan sitting on our face just waiting to squash our day, to squash our joy. If we don't pick him up and toss him across the room - he'll succeed. And we can't do it. He prowls around like a roaring lion waiting to devour us, he's the ruler of this world, he wins, UNLESS, we resist him.

How?

By being firm in our faith, by having the Spirit interceding for us, by fighting! We must fight! We must contend!

What's your weapon of choice for this fight?



Ephesians 6:10-17 - The Armor of God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which

