

Lesson 11: The Gospel of Mark Chapters 2 and 3

In Chapter 1 we read about Jesus' preparations to begin His ministry. John the Baptist began baptizing people so they would be ready for the Messiah. Jesus was baptized by John and his true identity as Son of God was revealed. Fasting and prayer along with dealing with temptations in the desert for forty days followed, and Jesus soon after began his mission. Jesus called his first disciples to join Him. As Jesus set out to preach the Good News, he healed many. The word spread that a holy man had the power to cure the sick and exorcise demons.

- 1. Read Mark 2:1-12 and footnotes. Share any interesting footnotes with the group.**
 - a. In verse 2:5, whose *faith* does Jesus react to here?**
 - b. Reflection: How difficult is it to carry a paralyzed man on a stretcher and then lower it through the roof?**
 - c. What is the nature of the controversy between Jesus and the scribes?**
 - d. Where in this miracle story do we learn that Jesus knows the thoughts of men?**
 - e. How did the crowd respond to the healing miracle they witnessed that day?**
- 2. Read Mark 2:13-17 and footnotes. Share footnotes with your group.**
 - a. What is the reaction of the Pharisees and scribes to Jesus and his dinner companions?**
 - b. Jesus' response in 2:17 reveals a lot about His mission. What is He saying here?**
 - c. What does this say about the Church?**
- 3. Read Mark 2:18-20 and footnotes. Share helpful footnotes with your group.**
 - a. What are the Pharisees criticizing this time?**
 - b. What metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself in 2:19?**
 - c. What is the meaning of 2:20?**
- 4. Read Mark 2:21-22. There are two more metaphors here for Jesus that He uses to describe His uniqueness.**
 - a. To what is Jesus comparing himself in 2:21?**
 - b. To what is Jesus comparing himself in 2:22?**

5. Read Mark 2:23-28 and footnotes. Share any footnotes that are helpful.
 - a. What is the primary concern of the Pharisees?
 - b. What is the primary concern of Jesus? See Mk 2:27
 - c. What title does Jesus give himself in 2:28? What does this mean?
6. Read Mark 3:1-6 and foot notes. Jesus confronts the Pharisees and their “legalism.” This is another controversy about the Sabbath.
 - a. Why do you think the Pharisees did not answer Jesus’ question?
 - b. What is the main concern of the Pharisees?
 - c. What is the main concern of Jesus in this miracle story?
7. Read Mark 3:7-12.
 - a. What type of miracles is Jesus performing here?
 - b. Who is it that recognizes Him as the Son of God?
8. Read Mark 3:13-19. What power and authority did Jesus give to the Apostles?
9. Read Mark 3:20-30 and footnotes. Share any interesting footnotes. There are two groups of people who do not believe that Jesus’ power comes from God.
 - a. What do the family members of Jesus say about him?
 - b. What do the Pharisees and scribes say about Jesus?
 - c. The scribes and Pharisees have been following Jesus. They have seen His miracles. Do you think they really believe what they are saying in 3:22? If not, why would they deliberately lie?
 - d. Does it make any sense for a demon to go about expelling demons?
10. Read Mark 3:31-35. How can the words of Jesus in 3:34-35 be applied to the Church?
11. Which story in this lesson is most meaningful to you and why?