

Calvary Chapel Cajon

Women's Bible Studies

Mark 2,3

Lesson 2

In chapters two and three of the gospel of Mark, we find Jesus doing good and the religious leaders challenging that goodness. We find Him forgiving sins, healing diseases, casting out demons, and calling the less than desirable to follow Him. He was accused of being out of His mind by some people. Others accused Him of having Beelzebub (Satan). But, Satan's demons knew better. They called Him the Son of Man and fell down before Him. May your study of the Son of Man draw you into a deeper understanding and appreciation of who He truly is.

DAY ONE: Read Mark 2

1. Read through Mark 2 using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.
3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, and immediately

New to this lesson: *forgive/forgiven, sin(s)/sinners, and any references to religious rulers (Pharisees, scribes)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 2. Remember, as you mark the key words, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

DAY TWO: Mark 2

1. The story of Jesus healing the paralytic is recorded in Mark 1:1-12. Jesus had already acquired quite a following. As soon as people heard where Jesus was, the people gathered together so that there was no room to receive them. When those who brought the paralytic could not come near because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof and let down the paralytic on his bed (verses 1-4). Rather than immediately healing the paralytic, what does verse 5 say that Jesus said to him?
 - a. What was the response of the scribes? verses 6,7
 - b. According to verses 8-11, what did Jesus say and do?
 - c. What did the paralytic do? verse 12
 - d. What supernatural powers did Jesus display in this story?
 - e. What motivated Jesus to respond to the paralytic man's plight?
 - 1.) Why do you think *faith* is so important to God?
2. Mark 2:13-22 is the story of Jesus calling Levi (Matthew) and the subsequent feast Levi had at his house to honor Jesus (Luke 5:29). The scribes and Pharisees at the gathering challenged Jesus. What two questions did they ask?
 - a. What was Jesus' response?

Challenge: How did Jesus' responses answer their questions?
3. Again we see the Pharisees challenging Jesus in Mark 2:23-28. What did they ask Him?
 - a. What was Jesus' response?

4. Consider the attitude of the religious rulers as displayed in Mark 2. These men claimed to be following God. What do you think was their problem?

DAY THREE: Read Mark 3

1. Read through Mark 3 using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

2. How would you title this chapter? Record your title on the **Chapter Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbols**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, forgive/forgiven, sins, and any reference to religious rulers

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Mark 3. Remember, as you mark the key words, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them - only those that you feel are significant.

4. Scan the many references to Jesus in this chapter. List five things revealed about Him.

DAY FOUR: Mark 3:1-19

1. Mark 2 closed with the religious rulers challenging Jesus for *plucking heads of grain* on the Sabbath. Mark 3 opens with them challenging Him for *healing on the Sabbath*. What was Jesus' response? verse 4

2. Read Mark 3:7-12. Why were the people following Jesus?

- a. What can happen if we follow Jesus for the wrong reasons?

- b. For what reasons do you follow Jesus?
- c. As Jesus healed, the *unclean spirits* began to respond. Who did the *unclean spirits* say that Jesus was?
- 1.) How did they respond *whenever they saw Him*?
 - 2.) Notice the *unclean spirits* believed/knew who Jesus was. They also bowed down to Him. How does the belief and manner of worship of *unclean spirits* fall short of what God requires for salvation?
3. Mark 3:13-19 records the calling of the *twelve disciples*. What does Luke 6:12-13 tell us that Mark 3:13 does not?
- a. What does it say to you that even Jesus prayed before making this decision?
 - b. According of Mark 3:14,15, what was the disciples' purpose?
 - c. Knowing what you know about the personalities and pasts of some of the disciples, what does this say to you about the people God chooses?

DAY FIVE: Mark 3:20-35

1. Jesus continues to be misunderstood. What did *His own people* declare about Him?
- a. Why do people who do not know God often accuse believers of being *out of their mind*?
- 1.) Share an example

2. Record the accusation the scribes made against Jesus in verse 22.
 - a. What did Jesus say to refute their claim? verses 23-27
 - b. What do Jesus' words about a *divided kingdom* teach us about the *kingdom of God*?
3. Jesus followed His story of the *undivided kingdom* with the statement of a sin that is not forgivable. What statement had the religious rulers made about Jesus? verse 30
 - a. Record the reassuring, wonderful words of 1 John 1:9.
 - 1.) Now read John 3:16-18. What action is required for a person to move to having their sins be forgiven?
 - 2.) According to John 3:18, what action causes certain condemnation and cannot be forgiven?
4. *Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him* (Mark 3:31). What was Jesus' response? verses 33-35.
 - a. What does Jesus' response teach us about priorities?
 - b. In light of this passage, how should Christians relate to one another?

Personal: What improvements do you need to apply?

- c. What does Luke 8:19-21 add to the requirements to be a member of Jesus' family?

DAY SIX: Review Mark 2 and 3

1. Jesus approached life very differently than the religious rulers did. Describe some of those differences.
2. What can we learn from Jesus' example of who He chose to associate with?
 - a. When is it wise to associate with *sinners* and when is it not?
3. What can we learn from Jesus' attitude toward the Sabbath?
4. Consider the power of Jesus as displayed in Mark 2 and 3. How does having confidence in His power affect your life?
5. Reread Jesus' words in Mark 3:34-35. How does Jesus relate to you?
 - a. In what ways should this impact you?
6. As you consider Jesus as He has been revealed in Mark 2 and 3, what are your impressions?

...*Who can forgive sins but God alone?*
-Mark 2:7

Chapter Two

¹And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. ²Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. ³Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, *"Son, your sins are forgiven you."* ⁶And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, *"Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?" ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--*He said to the paralytic, ¹¹*"I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."* ¹²Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" ¹³Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. ¹⁴As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, *"Follow Me."* So he arose and followed Him. ¹⁵Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. ¹⁶And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷When 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."* ¹⁸The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹And Jesus said to them, *"Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. ²⁰But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days. ²¹No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; or else the new piece pulls away from the old, and the tear is made worse. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins."* ²³Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵But He said to them, *"Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat, except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?" ²⁷And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."*

Chapter Three

¹And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³And He said to the man who had the withered hand, *"Step forward."* ⁴Then He said to them, *"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"* But they kept silent. ⁵And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, *"Stretch out your hand."* And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. ⁶Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him. ⁷But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea ⁸and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him. ⁹So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him. ¹⁰For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. ¹¹And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." ¹²But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known. ¹³And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: ¹⁶Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; ¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; ¹⁸Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house. ²⁰Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. ²¹But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind." ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons." ²³So He called them to Himself and said to them in parables: *"How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. ²⁷No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.* ²⁸*"Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; ²⁹but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"--* ³⁰because they said, "He has an unclean spirit." ³¹Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. ³²And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." ³³But He answered them, saying, *"Who is My mother, or My brothers?"* ³⁴And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, *"Here are My mother and My brothers! ³⁵For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."*