



Introduction*

The Gospel of Mark emphasizes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus announced the Kingdom of God, healed the sick, and died as a ransom for sinners. In addition to Jesus, Mark features three main groups of people: the disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders, none of whom understood Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to go to the cross, the religious leaders arrested him, the disciples abandoned him, and the crowds jeered him. Only when he died alone on the cross did a Roman centurion recognize that he was the Son of God.

Recap:

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. Now we shall see how Jesus dealt with this.†

“New Wine is for New Wineskins” **Mark 2:13-3:6**

¹³Jesus again went out beside the sea and the whole crowd was coming to him and he was teaching them.

¹⁴While he was passing by, he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax office and he said to him, “Follow me!” He got up and went with Him. ¹⁵While reclining to eat at his home, many tax collectors and sinners were dining together with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who were also following him.

¹⁶When the Bible scholars and Pharisees saw that he ate with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his followers, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷After hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not those who are strong and able that have need for a doctor, but those who are weak. I did not come to call those who are righteous, but sinners.”

¹⁸Now John's followers and the Pharisees were continually going without food, fasting, and some came and asked him, “What is the reason that John's followers and the followers of the Pharisees fast, but your followers do not?” ¹⁹Jesus asked them, “Can the bridegroom's friends fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they are not able to go without food. ²⁰But the days will come when the groom will be taken away from them and then they will go without food in that day. ²¹No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, otherwise the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and makes a worse tear. ²²No one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise the wine will burst the wineskins and the wine is destroyed along with the wineskins. New wine is for new wineskins!”

²³On the day of rest (Sabbath) he was passing through the grain fields and his followers led the way, picking heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees began saying to him, “Look! Why do they do what is not right on the day of rest?” ²⁵He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with

* Ryken, L. (Ed.). (2011). The ESV and the English Bible legacy. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. The ESV Preface, Explanation of Features, introductions to each book of the Bible: Mark

† Dumit, J. (1996). God's Word for Today: Mark The Serving Christ. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House

him were hungry? ²⁶How he entered into the house of God, in the time of the high priest Abiathar, and ate the bread of offering, which is not right to eat if you are not a priest, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷Then He added, "The day of rest was made for man, not man for the day of rest. ²⁸Therefore the Son of Man is Lord even of the day of rest."

^{3:1}He again entered into the synagogue and a man was there with a shriveled hand. ²They were watching Jesus to see if he would heal him on the day of rest, in order that they might bring charges against him. ³He said to the man having the shriveled hand, "Rise up in front of everyone." ⁴Then he said to them, "Is it right on the day of rest to do good or to do evil, to rescue life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵After looking around at them with anger, grieving at the stubbornness of their hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out the hand!" He stretched it out and his hand was restored to wholeness. ⁶After going out, the Pharisees were immediately making plans with Herod's men in order that they might destroy Jesus.

Is this Levi who was called to follow Jesus one of the 12 disciples?

What was the objection to Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners that the Bible scholars had? Why?

What does Jesus' response about garments and wineskins mean?

What point was Jesus making in His response to the question about fasting?

What does Jesus mean when he says that, "The Son of Man is lord even of the day of rest"?

How did Jesus correct the Pharisees' understanding of the Sabbath day of rest?

What did He proclaim about Himself? What implications did this have?

Does the Sabbath day of rest still apply to us today?

In 3:4 Jesus asked, "Is it right on a day of rest to do good or to do evil?"

Read Hosea 6:6. How does Jesus answer their question? Why did the Pharisees not answer?

Why was Jesus angry and deeply distressed?

How did the Pharisees further display their hardness of heart?

Does Jesus purposefully provoke the Pharisees in 3:1-6?