



Chapter 2

Fall 2019 Class

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Themes – Chapter 2 & 3

- Jesus Christ claims to be God & Proves it with Power & fulfilled prophecy.
- Jesus intentionally breaks traditions of men, to show that He is God, even of the Sabbath.
- Opposition to Jesus intensifies & the plot to kill Him begins.
- After revealing the Power & Truth of God to the people and religious leaders, they state that Jesus gets His power from the Devil & want to take Him away.
- Jesus calls this the “Unpardonable Sin”
- Jesus redefines the Family – “who is my brother, who is my mother?”

Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sins

Healing of Paralytic - Mark 2:1-12

- In contrast to the crowds, leaders begin to oppose Jesus
- Jesus saw their **FAITH** (both the man & his friends)
 - Faith has a double meaning , physical & spiritual healing
- The heart of the gospel and what John the Baptist preached (baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins)
 - **Forgiveness of Sin is man's greatest need, since all humanity are sinners who are justly condemned to eternal hell. Out of love for us, Jesus' died for sinners so that God's justice was satisfied and we could be reconciled to God.**
- New Covenant of Jerimiah 31:31-34 has arrived
"For I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more."
- Son of Man Title Used – combines human aspect of Ezekiel & Divine aspect from Daniel
- Blasphemy Charge – only God can forgive sins
- Jesus reads their minds

A “Friend of Sinners” – Levi is Called

Mark 2:13-17

- Jesus calls another Social Outcast (Levi who is Matthew)
- Pharisees criticized Jesus for eating with sinners because they considered themselves the most holy people, adhering to rigorous man-man rules (which considered these people unclean)
- **Blinded by self-righteousness**, the Pharisees were unwilling to acknowledge their true condition (or **unwilling to REPENT**)
- In Jesus’ eyes, everyone was a sinner (law breaker) and righteousness was attained solely by faith in Jesus
- Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees is profound: not just that He came to accept sinners as well as the religiously respectable, but, **He came ONLY to save self-confessing sinners** (and everyone is a sinner).

Fasting

Mark 2:18-22

- In Jesus a new era has arrived, one in which He must challenge old traditions (symbolized by fasting).
- Fasting only required on Day of Atonement, expressed mourning & sorrow.
- **Jesus identified Himself as God, the covenant Bridegroom of Israel** (Hos 2:16-20, Is 54:5) where there can only be joy. Now is time for celebration.
- When Bridegroom is taken – then they will fast – First explicit **foreshadowing of the Cross**.
- Jesus tells **2 parables** about the danger of mixing old and new: sewing a piece of **unshrunk cloth** on an old garment, and putting **new wine into old wineskins**; to illustrate that you can't put the new Covenant into the old Covenant and that the old Covenant cannot contain the new one – **you need to be born again!! You need a new wineskin!**

The Son of Man is “Lord of the Sabbath”

Mark 2:23-28

- Sabbath means cease or rest, plucking grain was considered work by Pharisees, Jesus argues that David’s act of eating on the Sabbath shows that the Law was meant to be a blessing rather than a burden
- Jesus goes on to make another profound claim, that “...**the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.**”.
- In Mark Chapter 2 Jesus Christ profoundly proclaims that He is:
 - **The Great Physician (Can Forgive Sin),**
 - **The Bridegroom of Israel (Break Religious Tradition on Fasting),**
 - **Lord of the Sabbath**

Mark 2:23-28

Lord of the Sabbath

- Sabbath was ordained by God in Genesis 2:3, and therefore God is Lord of the Sabbath
- **Jesus was claiming to be God in this statement**
- 4th Commandment - the Sabbath rest was instituted to relieve man of his labors, just as Jesus came to relieve us of our attempting to achieve salvation by our works (Heb 3:11; 4)
- Ex 20:8-11; Ex 31:12-17; Deut 5:12-15
- The Pharisees regarded the Sabbath as one of the most important traditions of Jewish religion.
- **Do Christians today need to keep the Sabbath?** (Rom 14:5; Col 2:16-17; Gal 5:13-15)

Mark 2:23-28

Spurgeon on the Sabbath

- While it appears most Christian leaders of this generation do not think the Sabbath Law needs to be obeyed today, this was not how church leaders of past generations felt.

Spurgeon Quotes:

- **“And let the Sabbatarian say what he will, you may work on the Sabbath day, if you work for God; and this Sabbath day’s work of going to the house of God is work for God, and God accepts it. For yourselves you may not labor, God commands you to rest, but if you have to toil these three, these four, these five, these six miles, as many of you have done, I will not and I must not blame you.”**
- **“The sum of our Lord’s teaching was that works of necessity, works of mercy, and works of piety are lawful on the Sabbath. He did explain the law in that point and in others, yet that explanation **did not alter the command, but only removed the rust of tradition which had settled upon it.** By thus explaining the law he confirmed it; he could not have meant to abolish it or he would not have needed to expound it.”**

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Mark 3:1-5

- Back in the same Capernaum synagogue from Chapter 1 ("again"). Continues with Sabbath theme since it was central to the Judean religious system and Jesus was exposing its errors & challenging the authority of Pharisees
- Opposition reaches new climax (kill). Pharisees tried to trap and accuse Jesus of breaking another law. (Read [Matthew 12:10-12](#))
- Why did they hate Jesus? (Read [John 10:31-38](#))
- Healing, unless life was in danger, was forbidden on Sabbath, but Jesus deliberately heals publicly to show compassion & authority.
- Jesus' response goes beyond **"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil..."** but also to **"...to save life or to kill."** (reads their minds/[foreshadow of Cross](#))

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath – Cont'n

Mark 3:1-5

- Jesus reduces the Pharisees to **silence** by judging them for not only showing a **lack of compassion** (empty rituals & incorrect interpretation of scripture since the intent of the Sabbath was for good), **but also for plotting to kill Him** in their hearts.
- **Jesus becomes ANGRY** with their **hardened hearts (sinful)**.
- Only Mark uses this word, and this is the only place in the 4 gospels where the text specifically states that Jesus was **angry** (other times Jesus shows anger is temple Mat 21:12-13; John 2:15-17; Mark 11:15-17)
- Jesus' anger has Old Testament significance similar to the way God was angry at the hard-heartedness of Israel - fundamental rebellion of Israel against its covenant with God (judgement on Old Israel).

Righteous Anger vs. Sin

- “Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26); “Be angry and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.” (Psalm 4:4)
- “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God” (James 1:19–20).
- **Righteous Anger (indignation):** (the type of Anger Jesus displayed)
 1. Reacting against actual sin & Godly injustice,
 2. Concerned with the offense against God rather than the offense against yourself,
 3. Expressed in ways consistent with Christian character.
- In Mark 3:1-6, **Jesus was angry** not because the Pharisees were angry at him, but because they were hindering his work by **not showing compassion** to a man, and **wanted to destroy the Son of God**. Jesus saw their offense as being against God and his anger was **mixed with sadness**.

- **Anger is one of fallen man’s most common sins, it’s better to be slow to speak and meditate on it in stillness in bed.** Righteous anger never warrants revenge or hurtful actions towards others.

Ministry by the Sea

New cycle in Mark – Jesus leaves urban area to the Sea of Galilee, healing the sick & casting out demons.

- 1. Jesus “withdrew” to the sea** – common after He confronts evil.
- 2. Large Crowds** – “great multitudes” used twice and many specific places are mentioned – 1,000’s of people came because of the “things He was doing” -
- 3. He Healed Many** (means all) – maybe 1,000’s, all public
- 4. Silenced Demons** – Demons were everywhere, trying to reveal His true identity, but Jesus would not let them.



Mark 3:7-12
Jesus' Miracles by the Sea

Thousands of People travelled over 120 miles (Idumea) to see Jesus perform miracles of healings, casting out demons.

He even needed a small boat to be ready should the crowds crush Him.

Even King Herod was intrigued with Him.
 (Luke 23:8, Matt 14:1-2)

The 12 Disciples Called

- After this long day, Luke 6:12 tells us “he went out into a mountain to pray, and **continued all night in prayer** to God.”, then He called the called the “Twelve”.
- **Purposes of Disciples:** 1) To be with Him (**To Learn**), and 2) **To Preach** (“become fishers of men”); but also to 3) To Exercise Power Delegated to give legitimacy to their work.
- **Authority Delegated** to Disciples: 1) **To Heal**; 2) **To Cast out Demons (authority over Satan)**
- Preaching is the means by which war is waged against Satan to rescue people from him.
- Jesus chose 12 ordinary sinners (weak, uneducated and imperfect) , on a mountain, and **rejected the religious nobility as a judgement against Israel for rejecting Him** (these disciples were given responsibility to judge the 12 tribes of Israel – Luke 22:28-30; Rev. 21:12-14). **Jesus is defining** the Church (not permanently replacing Israel)
- “You did not choose me but I chose you...” John 15:16 – it doesn’t matter who we are, **He empowers us with the Holy Spirit to have POWER over Sin & in Service too!**
- Echoes Ex. 19:1-6 where God led Israel to Mt. Sinai, where he commissioned them as His special people, and entered into covenant relationship with them.

Jesus Rejects Old Israel & His Family

- **Pharisees rejection** leads to the calling of a **new religious leadership of Israel** and His **family's rejection** leads to the calling of a **new Family**, (the Church) of those who follow Him and do the will of God.
- The passage starts off with crowds so large “they could not so much as eat bread” (shows compassion & commitment of Jesus)
- Then His family came in v21 and “**tried to take hold of Him, saying, He is out of His mind**”, even though they lived with Him their whole lives and probably knew of Mary's divine birth of Jesus. **Connected to the charge that He was demon possessed.**
- Jesus family returns to the passage in v 31 (1st Sandwich passage in Mark), but Jesus rejects them saying “**Who is my mother, or My brother?**” and later in **Mark 10:28-30** where He makes clear that the **church family is more important than blood family**. Family is referred to as “**OUTSIDE**”
- **Believers must be willing to lose their family because of following Jesus. (Luke 14:26; Matthew 10:36)**
- Theme of rejection/opposition as a result of discipleship is taken to the extreme of even family and dearest loved ones. **Jesus' teaching is now getting harder.**

A House Divided Cannot Stand

- **Scribes Blaspheme Jesus and call Him Satan** (Beelzebub - “Prince of Demons” or “Lord of the Flies”)
- Since His enemies could not dispute His Supernatural power, they disputed His source of power and concluded He was possessed by Satan.
- This was the worst accusation yet. Even atheists today would not go that far.
- Jesus responds by “Calling them to Himself” (with authority) and presents a logical argument that **a kingdom divided cannot stand**, that if He was driving out demons by demonic power, it would be like Satan fighting against himself.
- The fact that Jesus spent His entire ministry exposing, rebuking and casting out demons was proof he was not only against Satan, but was a stronger more opposing power. Also, the demons themselves repeatedly called Him the “Son of God”.
- Jesus’ analogy of the “**strong man**” represents **Satan**, and his property consists of both the demonic forces and oppressed humans under his control.
- Only someone stronger could enter the “strong man’s” domain, bind him and liberate his captives. **And Jesus is saying He is stronger than the “strong man”, Satan.**
- Your Lord is like the Victorious Heavy Weight Champ of the Universe and He lives with all His power in your heart, but His power is accessible only by faith/trust.

A House Divided Cannot Stand

- **How does this spiritual principle apply to the Church?**
- **What causes division in the Church and among Christians?**
- **1 Cor. 3:3; 1 Timothy 6:4; 2 Cor. 12:20**

The Unpardonable Sin

- **Mark 3:28** “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”

- **Blasphemy definition:** The act of insulting or showing contempt to God, or the claiming of the attributes of God.
- **Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is to deny Jesus even after being exposed to the truth.** For the Pharisees to conclude that Jesus’ power was satanic in origin and **willfully reject** the overwhelming evidence of truth in the presence of light, was to call Good, Evil, and was blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- **Blasphemy can be described as general unbelief in Jesus** (Mark 16:16 “...he who does not believe will be condemned.”)
- **2 Groups of Unbelievers (Numbers 15:27-30)**
 - **Ignorant Rejection** (i.e. Jesus’ family, people who don’t know the Gospel, Christians who make a slip of the tongue or sin)
 - **Willful Rejection** of the Holy Spirit (i.e. Pharisees – those who know the truth and fully reject it). – **This is the unpardonable sin.**

Scriptures on Blasphemy

- **Hebrews 6: 4-6** “**It is impossible** for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and **who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance**. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”
- **Hebrews 10: 26-29** “**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,** ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?”
- **1 John 5: 16-17** “¹⁶ If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is a sin that leads to death.**”
- **1 Timothy 1: 13** “¹³ Even though I was once a **blasphemer** and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in **ignorance** and unbelief.”
- **Romans 2: 21-23** “²¹ you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴ As it is written: “God’s name is **blasphemed** among the Gentiles because of you.”^[a]