

THE GOSPEL OF MARK – LESSON 3

WATCH THE VIDEO

Login to ***rightnowmedia.org*** and search “Francis Chan Gospel of Mark”.

For this week’s lesson, watch Video # 3 (10 min).

* If you do not have a rightnowmedia account, contact Barbara Scorza at bscorza@fellowshipnorth.net

PAUSE & PRAY

Before diving in, pause and pray. Ask God to reveal himself to you through His Word.

READ & RESPOND

Read Mark 2:1 - 3:6

- What’s your immediate response to what you read?
- Write down any thoughts, questions, concerns, statements, and surprises that come to mind. You may want to write a summary that captures what you just read.

CONTEXT & KEY INSIGHTS

Here, we’ll provide helpful background information and key insights to consider in coming to the text. These are meant merely to supplement your time in the Word.

- Capernaum was a village with approximately 1500 residents. The homes were one story, with a flat roof, accessible by an outside staircase. The roofs were used for work, as well as sleep. Archaeological research suggests that the house where Jesus was living was made from ‘beams and branches of trees covered with a mixture of earth and straw.’
- *Son of man* is used by Jesus 80 times as a way to refer to himself (32 times in Matthew; 14 times in Mark; 26 times in Luke). In all these texts Jesus is the speaker; no one ever addresses him as *Son of man*.
- In the 1st century, scribes and Pharisees were two distinct groups, and some scribes were Pharisees. Scribes had knowledge of the law and could draft legal documents. Every village had at least one scribe.
- Tax collectors were Jews who collected taxes from fellow Jews for the Roman Empire. They made their living by charging an extra amount. They were considered traitors who became wealthy by collaborating with Roman authorities at the expense of their own people.
- Sinners associated with tax collectors were in a special class. These were people who deliberately violated the requirements of the law. They included money-lenders who charged interest on loans advanced to fellow Jews.
- A typical wedding feast lasted for seven days. During this time, the friends of the bridegroom stayed with him (Judges 14:10-11). A wedding feast was a time of joy and feasting. Tradition shows that the Pharisees and other Jews would refrain from fasting during these seven days. Therefore, it would not have made sense for the disciples to fast with Jesus since He was with them.
- The disciples were walking through the grain fields pulling the tops of the plants, while rubbing them together in their hands to separate the grain from the chaff, in order to eat it. The Sabbath law, though, found that using a tool to cut down the grain was more in line with breaking the Sabbath. The Pharisees still failed to understand who Jesus was and why the disciples were not in error.
- The scribes and Pharisees attending the synagogue firmly believed in the “tradition of the elders” (see Matthew 15:2 - 6, Mark 7:3 - 13) which considered ANY healing miracle as “work” which was forbidden by the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8 - 11).

THE GOSPEL OF MARK – LESSON 3

SEEK & STUDY

Our sermon series is titled, **Who Do You Say I Am?** As we look to the Scriptures, we'll keep that question front and center, helping frame all we're seeking in the Word.

1. Read **Mark 2:1-4**. Because of the crowds, what is Jesus doing in the house, and why is he interrupted?
2. Read **Mark 2:5-12**. What compels Jesus to act, and what does he do first? What follows?
3. What is Jesus wanting to establish about himself?
4. Read **Mark 2:13-22**. How do the sinners and tax collectors come to dine with Jesus?
5. Why would Jesus casually spend time with such despised individuals?
6. What can we learn from the analogy of the wineskins?
7. Read **Mark 2:23-28**. Jesus says that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. What does he mean?
8. Read **Mark 3:1-6**. In all of these instances in Mark 2 & 3, why are the scribes and Pharisees so obsessed with finding fault with Jesus?

FIND & FOLLOW

Each week, we'll conclude with these two questions:

1. How did Jesus reveal more of himself to you this week?
2. From what you *found* in Christ, how will you *follow* Him now?