



Enjoying God's Word

Every Day

Photo: Jim Dixon

Gospel of Mark

-

Week Two

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Enjoying God's Word Every Day

Day One

Read - Mark 2:1&2

What does it mean?

- 1) Which town seems to have become the base of the Lord Jesus?
- 2) Where was Jesus found to be?

Throughout the Gospels we read of Jesus spending time in the homes of different people. The home environment was a place he loved to be, and still loves to be. Does he have a welcome in my home?

- 3) When did the crowd of people gather?
- 4) What are we told about the number of people that were there?
- 5) What did Jesus do when everyone was gathered?

A Key Point

Immediate Action – This is a feature of Mark's Gospel, used 40 times. Various words are used (KJV): **immediately; at once; straightway; as soon as.** At times it describes the actions of the Perfect Servant. Here, it's the people's response.

Jesus Christ promised his followers that "were two or three were gathered together", he would be there in their midst.

What about me?

When the Christians are 'gathered together' as a Church and with Christ, is my immediate desire to be there too, in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ? If we do we too will be blessed, by being in His presence, and hearing His Word.

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Day Two

Read – Mark 2:3-5

What does it mean?

- 1) How many people brought the sick man to Jesus?
- 2) How do we know that the focus of this section is on this group and their actions?
- 3) In v3 what was their desire and how did they act on it?
- 4) In v4 we see their determination. When their first effort failed, where did they go?
- 5) In v5 what are we told is the reason that Jesus acts towards the sick man in forgiving him of his sins?

A Key Point

The Roof Top – In the Middle East in Bible times, homes were built with flat roofs. It was a place where people could get away from the hustle and bustle. In Acts 10:9 we find it used as a place of meditation and prayer by Peter.

This group of 4 had a desire to see a friend blessed by Jesus. When their first effort failed, where did they go? The roof top – the place of prayer. They acted in faith and Jesus worked in that man's life.

Do I have a desire to bring others to the Lord Jesus?

If I have been saved, then I should desire to bring others to the Saviour. Perhaps a first effort didn't work. Don't be discouraged! Pray about it in faith, and God will act!

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Day Three

Read – Mark 2:6-12

What does it mean?

- 1) The scribes were reasoning. What were their thoughts about Jesus?
- 2) How does v8 show us that Jesus is God? What is he able to do?
- 3) How would you answer the question put forward in v9?
- 4) 'That ye may know'. Jesus is explaining his evidence for his authority to forgive sins. What is this evidence?
- 5) How did the people respond to this miracle of healing? What is your response?

A Key Point

Forgiveness – Mark introduces the issue of forgiveness. Sin is against God, so the scribes say 'only God can forgive'. Here Jesus sets forth evidence that 'the Son of Man has authority to forgive'. The conclusion - the Son of Man is God.

The scribes had already made up their mind - Jesus was not God. They interpreted the evidence to fit their view. Many today also reason with a closed mind, having already made up their mind there is no God. They then interpret the evidence accordingly.

What about you?

As you read through this book, keep your mind open to all possibilities, and follow the evidence Mark presents about Jesus Christ to where it leads, without presupposition.

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Day Four

Read – Mark 2:13-17

What does it mean?

- 1) Jesus is now by the sea-side. What is he doing?

The Levi mentioned here, is the Matthew who wrote the first Gospel.

- 2) How did Levi respond when Jesus said "Follow me"?
- 3) Again, we find Jesus in a house. This time Levi's. Who else is there?
- 4) Why do you think the Pharisees were not happy about it?
- 5) Consider v17. What was Jesus' reason for spending time with them?

A Key Point

Publicans – In the Bible, a publican is a tax-collector. V16 shows they were despised – 'publicans & sinners'. It was because they worked for the Romans & stole to become rich. Yet Jesus chose one of these as a disciple. What great grace?

'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance', is a key verse. It shows us the focus of the Lord Jesus throughout his life and the reason for his death.

What about me?

Have I responded like Levi to the person of Christ Jesus? Have I repented of my sin? Am I now following my Lord and Saviour? If I am, do I then have a concern for my friends? Do I desire their salvation?

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Day Five

Read – Mark 2:18-20

What does it mean?

- 1) Who used to fast and who didn't fast?
- 2) In the analogy, who is the bridegroom, and who are the children of the bridechamber?
- 3) What did Jesus mean by this analogy? What was his reason for his disciples not fasting?

In verse 20, Jesus is speaking of the future. Consider the phrase, 'When (he) shall be taken away from them', carefully.

- 4) Who does it refer to - 'away from them'?
- 5) When did this, or has it, happened?

A Key Point

Fasting – This is mainly an OT observance. It was to show complete dependence upon God to work in some situation, often connected with repentance. It is not a necessary Christian act, but dependence upon God is.

The difficulty in verse 20, that although it seems to refer to a time after Christ rose and ascended back to heaven, we don't read of the early Christians fasting in the rest of the New Testament.

What about me?

Nevertheless, the aspect of dependence upon God is still vital, and so I ask myself – do I trust in myself to work things out, or is my dependence in God? It is only then, that I will see God working in my life.

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Day Six

Read – Mark 2:21&22

What does it mean?

- 1) What are the two common pictures from everyday life that the Lord Jesus speaks of here?

A common point in each parable is that something new even in daily life is not added to something old.

- 2) What is the result if this happens?

The last phrase of v22 tells us the point that the Lord Jesus is driving at.

- 3) What is this point?

A Key Point

Parable – The Lord Jesus often used parables - a story or example taken from everyday life (thus easily understood) in order to get across a **specific point** of truth. It is important **not to read too much into the parable.**

Keep the context in mind – compare with the one sick of the palsy (v3-12). Jesus is not just infusing the old Jewish rituals with new life, but men and women are being created anew – born again – given a new heart for the new life to spring from.

What about me?

Have I had a conversion experience that is more than turning over a new leaf? Have I been born again? Am I living in the joy of that new life?

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Day Seven

Read – Mark 2:23-28

What does it mean?

- 1) On what day do the disciples pluck the corn?
- 2) What is the problem with this (v24)?

Jesus shows the religious leaders that their interpretation of the law is wrong.

- 3) What historical example does Jesus use as the basis of his argument?
- 4) V27 – What is the proper interpretation of the Sabbath?
- 5) Jesus finishes with an assertion of his own person and authority. What does he say about himself?

A Key Point

Sabbath – The concept of the Sabbath goes back to Creation. In Gen 2:2 we read 'he rested on the seventh day from all his work'. This was legalised in the law. Now the legality has been set aside, but rest is still important.

The Sabbath in the legal sense has been set aside. We no longer have to keep the Sabbath as a special day, although physical rest is still important. More important though is our spiritual rest, which we can find in the Lord of the Sabbath – the Saviour, Jesus Christ

What does the Lord Jesus say?

'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest'.

Matt 11:28