

## Mark Chapter 2

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V: 1 “Again He entered into Capernaum...” Capernaum is located directly on the shore to the Sea of Galilee.

- Previously He had done great things there, but He went onto other towns to preach. Now He returns to what would become His Galilean home base.
- It is known that He is in “the” house, Peter and Andrews house.

V: 2 As the people come, He preaches the word to them, He gave them what they needed.

**Matthew 4:4** “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God.”

**Romans 10:17** “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

V: 3 “They” came to Him, 4 guys bringing their friend, who is sick of the “palsey”.

- “Palsy” was a disease that was the culmination of venereal disease, in it’s final stages it attacks the joints and nervous system.
- Fusing the joints together immobilizing it’s victim and causing all the nerves to fire off with a constant sensation of burning pain.
- The mind was left intact so that even though the person couldn’t talk or move, they were conscious of their pain and the things going on around them.
- Conscious of the fact that their own actions had brought this malady upon themselves, grieving over the results of their sin.

V: 4 These men had carried their friend to Jesus, knowing that He could heal him. Now there are too many people and they can’t get to Him.

- They were determined – they get on the roof and begin to dig through to the inside.
- Constructed with timbers, then smaller sticks, then dirt – this must have been a mess when breaking through on the inside.
- After they make a hole big enough to lower a stretcher through, they lower the man down into the presence of Jesus.

V: 5 “When Jesus saw their faith...” Who’s faith?

**Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- At the least, the four men who’s actions demonstrated that they believed that Jesus could heal their friend.
- Possibly the faith of the man with palsy who certainly hoped for healing.
- Jesus addressed the most important need, the need for forgiveness.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...”

- The man probably couldn’t talk, but he’d probably had time to think things through, knowing that his sin had led him to this and that he was going to eventually die and go to hell.
- Jesus, the man of God, the Prophet, the Healer – tells him that his sins are forgiven! What joy and what peace this must have given this man!

**Psalms 32:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup>Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

*“Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”*

- The word “son” implies relationship, now we’re back to the issue of who’s faith.
- This would seem to indicate that the man with palsy had faith also; because:

**Hebrews 11:6** “Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

V: 6 “But” – contrast, contrast to faith – the scribes. The scribes were the attorneys of the day.

- Reasoning in their hearts, they were thinking as opposed to speaking.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

V: 7 The question in their minds is why does this “*man*” speak blasphemies.

- They only see Jesus as a “man” – they aren’t considering all the facts that He is healing people, preaching the word of God, and fulfilling the word of God, and that God is being glorified because of it.

Blasphemy: 1. disrespectful, irreverent, impious utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.  
2. An act of cursing or reviling God.

- The last part of their thought was correct, only God can forgive sins, it is part of His character, who He is.

**Psalm 51:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>Have mercy upon me O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speaketh, and be clear when thou judgest.”

**Micah 7:18** “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy.”

V: 8 Jesus is fully man, but He is also fully God – and omniscient – all knowing.

**Psalm 139:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. <sup>2</sup>Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.”

“*Why reason ye these things*” – “why are you thinking this way”.

**1 Corinthians 13:7** Love “beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

V: 9-11 Which is easier to say? It’s easier to say “you’re forgiven” – because there’s no tangible proof – just a statement.

- To tell someone they are healed – they either are or they aren’t, it’s easy to see the truth.

“<sup>10</sup>*But that you may know* (eidos) *that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins ...*”

“*Son of Man*” **Daniel 7:13** – prophetic title for Messiah.

- Doing the more difficult, removing any doubt – doing only what God could do – the man is healed and everyone sees it.

V: 12 Immediately he arose and went his way – demonstrating the power of God.

- They were amazed and glorified God – God got the glory and credit.

**Matthew 5:16** “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- The healing of the man with palsy wasn't just proof to the Pharisees about the authority of God to forgive sins, it was also proof to the man that he was indeed forgiven.

**Psalms 103:3** “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;”

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V: 13 The house can only hold so many people, so He goes outside to the open spaces to accommodate more people.

- Walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the multitude came to Him, so He taught them.

V: 14 The calling of Matthew, Levi the son of Alphaeus. Matthew may have been the brother or half brother of James, who is also recorded as being the son of Alphaeus (Changing).

- Matthew means gift of Yahweh, he went from Levi to Matthew.
- Jesus tells Levi / Matthew “follow Me” and Matthew gets up and follows Jesus.
- Matthew left a lucrative job, working for Herod as a tax collector and became a follower of Jesus.
- Peter, Andrew, James, and John could all go back to fishing if they had too, and did. Matthew's departure was a real commitment and a one way trip.

**Matthew 16:26** “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

- It might have seemed like a sacrifice at the time, but in eternity it would not seem so.

*“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot*

V: 15 Dinner at “his” - Matthew’s house, along with other tax collectors and sinners of various sorts, together with Jesus and His disciples.

- Interesting situation: Matthew was a tax collector along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, along the main road that led to Damascus.
- Matthew would have been the tax collector that Peter, Andrew, James, John, and the others had to deal with regarding their fishing business or other commerce.
- Now those same men, the disciples are having a meal in his house.
- I wonder if this had anything to do with Peter’s question about forgiveness (up to 7 times?)

V: 16-17 The religious leaders wanted to know why any self respecting rabbi would eat with - commune with – tax collectors and sinners.

- Those that are well don’t need a doctor, those that are sick do.

**Luke 19:10** “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

V: 18-20 This may have been an official / religious fasting day: The disciple of John and the Pharisees fast, why don’t yours.

- The Pharisees were trying to align themselves with the disciple of John the Baptist?
- When John & his disciples fasted it was for the right reasons, but the Pharisees only fasted as a pretense or outward show.

**Matthew 6:16-18** “<sup>16</sup>Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup>But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; <sup>18</sup>that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly”

- The question is why do we fast (religiously) and your disciples don’t?
- Fasting is a time to “afflict your souls” as the OT puts it. Jesus likens His disciples as being his grooms men preparing for the wedding – which He is, so the question is how can they be sad or afflicted when it is time to rejoice? Who can be sad in the King’s presence?
- The day / time is coming however when it will be time to fast, but today is not that day.

V: 21-22 In those days they didn't have "pre-shrunk" clothes. They made their clothing out of cotton / linen, wool, or animal skins. With the cotton & wool there was a lot of shrinkage. Placing a new patch on an older shrunken garment would cause the tear to be worse because the new patch would shrink when the rest wouldn't.

- Same thing with wine skins / bottles, new skins are soft and flexible able to withstand the expansion of new wine – old skins are hardened and less flexible, suitable to old wine that doesn't expand like new wine.
- Basically what Jesus was saying is that the old religious system had become hard and inflexible, they were unable to deal with the new work that God was doing.

**Jeremiah 31:31** "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah."

- It is important that we remain soft and pliable in God's hands so He can continue to work through us.
- Jesus didn't come to patch the old, their old failed religious system. He came to introduce the new covenant in His blood.

V: 23-24 Sabbath / Shabat.

- The "Sabbath" has always been the 7<sup>th</sup> day; there would be 6 days of work, then the 7<sup>th</sup> is a day of rest, or the Sabbath – which is Saturday, not Sunday.
- We as Gentile believers have the concept of the Sabbath through Jesus, He being our rest.
- From a historical context, and what is being spoken of here is from a Jewish perspective, the Sabbath as such was intended for the Jews, not the Gentiles or non-Jews.

**Exodus 31:13** "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel..."

**Exodus 31:16** "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath..."

**Exodus 31:17** "It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel..."

- Keeping the Sabbath was a serious observance, it was the penalty of death for those who didn't keep it.
- But that was for what God called the Sabbath, not necessarily what men made it into, there is a difference.

**Mark 7:6-9** “<sup>6</sup>He answered and said unto them, well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. <sup>7</sup>Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. <sup>8</sup>For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. <sup>9</sup>And He said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

- Plucking a meal was technically ok.

**Deuteronomy 23:25** “When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbors standing corn.”

- You weren't allowed to carry food away from the field; but as the wheat was nearing the harvest, you could pull along the stem to the head of the wheat and end up with the grains of wheat in your hand. They would be encased in the husks, so would roll them back and forth between your two hands and the husks would break off, then you could blow the chaff away eat the grain.
- But according to their interpretation of the Law that was developed in the Mishna (Rabbinic commentary), and later in the Talmud (codification of Mosaic law & traditions; 200 AD), it was not lawful on the Sabbath day to pick any food, fruit, or wheat.
- It was not lawful to thresh wheat on the Sabbath day – so the disciples had violated the Law on a couple of different points from their perspective.
- Had they been using a sickle, or had they brought a basket – that would constitute harvesting – which would be a real violation of the Sabbath.

V: 25-26 Jesus confronts them with the word of God and the example of King David; who also was rejected as king the first time around.

- Have you not read? Don't you know the scriptures?

David & his men ate the showbread out of the Tabernacle:

**1 Samuel 21:3-6** “<sup>3</sup>Now therefore, what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. <sup>4</sup>And the priest answered David, and said, there is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. <sup>5</sup>And David answered the priest, and said unto him, of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel <sup>6</sup>So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the showbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.”

- There is that sense here that love is more important than the law.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** "... for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life."

- Jesus took care of His men, just as David did.

V: 27-28 "Lord also of the Sabbath" – because He created it! He is Lord of all!

**Hebrews 4:9-11** <sup>9</sup>There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.  
<sup>10</sup>For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from His own works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

- What was the purpose of the Sabbath? Rest, and it is one of those things that points to Jesus!

*Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath!*