

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK
Session 3 & 4: Mark 1:29-3:35

SUMMER 2021

JESUS CONTINUES TO PREACH AND HEAL

1. Read Mark 1:29-45. What was Jesus showing about Himself when He healed people, whether individuals like Peter's mother-in-law or the crowds
2. Why does Jesus tell the demons to "*Be silent*" (vs. 25) and not allow them to speak (vs. 34)?
3. What again is highlighted in Jesus' words in verse 38?
4. How can your congregation seek more effectively to keep its focus on the main mission?
5. In verse 40, we meet a second man who is unclean (remember the man with the unclean spirit). Being unclean means neither of these men are under the reign and rule of God.
6. Conversely to the demons, this man would actually be a good witness to Jesus and the Good News. Why does Jesus tell him to keep silent as well?
7. Read Mark 2:1-12. Again, note that despite the reputation that Mark wrote a Gospel of "action", what does Jesus again show is paramount in His ministry (see vs. 2)?
8. What was the first thing Jesus did for the paralyzed man whose friends let him down through an opening in the roof?
9. What is the significant message of the miracle and the scribes words?

10. What significance is there in the fact that the crowd was *“amazed and glorified God.”*

JESUS EATS WITH SINNERS

11. Read Mark 2:13-17. What is a Disciple? The 12 Apostles learned discipleship by being with Jesus. How do we learn what it means to be Disciples?

12. What was unusual about Jesus calling Levi (Matthew) to become his disciple? How did Jesus, by this choice, demonstrate the meaning of the gospel? And what does Matthew’s response to Jesus’ invitation tell us about him?

13. In what way did the Pharisees exclude themselves from God’s kingdom?

OLD WAYS AND NEW WAYS

14. Read Mark 2:18-3:6. Why did Jesus and His disciples refuse to follow the customary days of fasting? How does the parable of the marriage festival reveal their attitude about fasting? What are the new wineskins and the new unshrunk cloth?

15. The next two accounts involving the Sabbath make much the same point as the account of fasting. What did Jesus do or allow on the Sabbath that offended the religious leaders?

16. What was the true purpose of the Sabbath in the Old Testament? How does Jesus’ understanding of the Sabbath conflict with the Pharisees?

17. Does that mean that the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy,” is no longer in effect? How do we keep the Third Commandment today?

18. What bold assertion did Jesus make when He said, “So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath”?

19. Not only does Jesus claim to be greater than the Sabbath, but His Words also indicate that He claims to be greater than who?

DISCIPLES/FOLLOWERS

20. Read Mark 3:7-12. What points does Mark make in these verses?

21. Read Mark 3:13-19. Jesus again calls His followers (12 of them)—Jesus is the incarnation of a seeking God—He makes them “apostles.” What does that mean? Why 12?

22. Read Mark 3:20-35. Although Jesus performed many miracles and spoke with authority, many people began to reject him. What did his family think of him? Even worse, what did the religious leaders think of him

23. How did Jesus show that the Pharisees’ charge was completely illogical?

24. Why is blaspheming (speaking outrageous, usually evil, things against God) the Holy Spirit unforgiveable? Is blaspheming Jesus unforgiveable?

25. The crowd had come to Jesus to see and experience his miraculous power (verses 7–12). Members of Jesus’ family had accused him of being out of his mind (verses 20–21). The Pharisees had accused Jesus of driving out demons by the prince of demons (verse 22). Yet some were true members of Jesus’ family. Who are they—then and today?

