

# Jesus Answers His Critics

Mark 2

April 22, 2018

Purpose: Establish Jesus' credibility. He is the God-Messiah.

Question about Forgiveness (2:1-12; Matt. 9:1-8; Luke 5:18-26)

**Question:** *Why does this man speak like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?*

**Implication: Statement:** Jesus is a pretender / blasphemer.

## Observations

- What was Jesus busy doing? \_\_\_\_\_ the Word (2). People think they need a "miracle." What they need is the Word of God.
- Whose faith was Jesus honoring?
- Verse 6 is the 1<sup>st</sup> time Mark directly mentions the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Scribes did get one thing right. What was that?
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the 1<sup>st</sup> and last (14:64) charge brought against Jesus.
- Jesus did not correct their understanding. He clearly believed He was God.
- Their reaction was awe and praise. "We never saw anything like this!" Jesus' teaching was new (1:22, 27) & his power was new.

Question about Discipleship (2:13-17; Matt. 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32)

**Question:** *Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?*

**Implication: Some people aren't worthy of God's kingdom.**

## Observations

- "Beside the sea" = Sea of Galilee
- Matthew may have been the other James' brother (3:18).
- *Sinners* is a term used for people who are considered sinful by religious leaders. Used to distinguish between those who were \_\_\_\_\_ and not.
- Matthew was a tax collector. That means he was hated as an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Tax collectors worked for the Roman occupiers. They were sell-outs.
  - Tax collectors extorted from their fellow countrymen (Luke 19:8).
- Eating with tax collectors was crude and politically incorrect.

Question about Tradition (18-22; Matt. 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39)

**Question:** *Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but yours don't?*

**Implication: Our rules define who's in and who's out.**

Observations

- The Pharisees fasted 2x per week. God had commanded 1 fast day per year.
- Jesus affirms fasting.
- Jesus compares himself to a bridegroom. In Isaiah 62:5 & Hosea 2:20, who else is compared to a bridegroom?
- Jesus is making a larger point about the \_\_\_\_\_ Law.

Law of Moses	Kingdom of God
Old garment	Unshrunk cloth
Old wineskins	New wine
Old way of reaching God	New way of reaching God

- Jesus cannot be added to a works-based religion.

Question about Authority (23-28; Matt. 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5)

**Question:** *Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?*

**Implication:** **The rules of our religion are the most important thing.**

Observations

- David's story is found in 1 Samuel 21:1-6.
- The Sabbath regulation is originally found in Exodus 20:8-11. It is one of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus' claim is stunning! He claims the authority to change laws that God had given.

Truths to Ponder / Some Ways We Can Change

- In Mark 2, Jesus claimed authority to do two things that ONLY God could do. What are they?
- Faith without works is dead. Who do you need to carry to Jesus?
- Is our church welcoming to the "sinners" of our community?
- How important are rules / traditions to you?