

1:10 JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Leaders: Let this page stimulate a discussion of the text... it's OK if you don't cover each question!

Openers:

- 1 When and how did you begin to understand the difference between vain religious observances and a vital relationship with Jesus Christ? OR: Describe a time in your life when you felt you were at odds with the religious establishment. OR: What type of criticism have you encountered as a Christian?

Getting Started:

- 2 What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- 3 How has God been speaking to you this past week through your personal devotions in His Word?

Digging Deeper:

- 4 **Read 2:13-17.** What did Levi stand to lose by leaving his work and following Jesus? Why do you think people of ill repute were so attracted to Jesus? In what way is this story relevant to us?
- 5 **Read 2:18-22.** In your own words, why didn't Jesus' disciples fast? What do the old garment and old wineskins represent? What do the new patch and the new wine represent? Do you typically fix and mend or toss and replace? How has the new wine of Jesus burst some of your old wineskins?
- 6 **Read 2:23-28.** What claim does Jesus make for Himself in this passage? How did His attitude toward the Sabbath differ from the attitude of the Pharisees? Can you think of a time when religious traditions seemed to conflict with human need? How did you respond?
- 7 **Read 3:1-6.** What was it about the Pharisee's attitude that so distressed Jesus? What qualities do you see in Jesus in this passage? How have you seen religious rules or institutions hurt people? Have you ever been guilty of that yourself? How can Jesus' responses to criticism be a model for our own responses?

Sunday, September 27, 2009 • Summit Evangelical Free Church, Alta, IA • Pastor Doug Corlew
Series: *WAY TO GO: Serving & Giving Like Jesus* (Gospel of Mark), Message #3

CRITICS: THE SCANDAL OF GRACE

Mark 2:13-3:6

Why was the religious establishment so upset about Jesus?

1. He connected _____ (2:13-17)

2. He celebrated _____ (2:18-22)

3. He cared _____ (2:23 - 3:6)

Monday, September 28

Read Mark 2:13-14

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to the calling of Levi. Have you heard and responded to the Lord's call? Give thanks for His grace to you, and pray for someone you know who has yet to experience the mercy of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 45:4-7

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Matthew 19:16-30

"When the Lord Jesus calls a sinner to be His servant, He acts as a Sovereign; but He acts with infinite mercy. He often chooses those who seem most unlikely to do His will, and furthest off from His kingdom. He draws them to Himself with almighty power, breaks the chains of old habits and customs, and makes them new creatures.... We ought never to despair entirely of anyone's salvation when we read this passage of Scripture. He who called Levi still lives and still works." — J.C. Ryle

Tuesday, September 29

Read Mark 12:15-17

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to our need of Jesus Christ, the Great Physician of our souls. Christ came to call sinners, not the self-righteous. Have you acknowledged your mortal disease and truly come to Him for healing?

Romans 5:12-21

Jeremiah 6:13-14; 8:11-12; 17:9-10

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

"Diet sheets and rules of living are all very well for the convalescent, but not suitable to the person laboring under a mortal disease... The Lord Jesus knew the needs of human nature. He saw us all sick of a mortal disease, stricken with the plague of sin... No sin-sick soul is too far gone for Him. It is His glory to heal and restore to life the most desperate cases. For unerring skill, for unwearied tenderness, for long experience of people's spiritual ailments, the great Physician of souls stands alone. There is none like Him."—J.C. Ryle

Wednesday, September 30

Read Mark 2:18-22

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to Jesus' image of the wedding feast and parables of the new patch and new wine. How is Christ calling you to make a radical and joyful new commitment to Him?

Isaiah 54:4-8

Hosea 2:16-23

Revelation 19:6-9

"Jesus is the new patch and the new wine. He is not an attachment, addition, or appendage to the status quo. He cannot be integrated into or contained by preexisting structures... The question is not whether disciples will make room for Jesus in their already full agendas and lives. The question is whether they will forsake business as usual and join the wedding celebration; whether they will become entirely new receptacles for the expanding fermentation of Jesus and the gospel in their lives." - James R. Edwards

Thursday, October 1

Read Mark 2:23-27

Reflect also on these passages as they relate both to God's Sabbath principle and the Pharisee's misguided concern for their human traditions regarding the Sabbath. Let us watch and pray lest we also fall into the same pre-occupation with merely the outward ceremonies of religion, rather than true repentance and faith.

Exodus 20:8-11

Galatians 4:8-11

Colossians 2:16-23

"What excessive importance is attached to trifles by those who merely observe the external forms of religion... The Pharisees would have winked at covetousness, or perjury, or extortion, or excess, because they were sins to which they themselves were inclined. But no sooner did they see an infringement on their human traditions about the right way of keeping Sabbath, than they raised an outcry, and found fault." - J.C. Ryle

Friday, October 2

Read Mark 3:1-6

Reflect also on these passages as they relate to Jesus' healing on the Sabbath. What do we learn about the concerns and priorities of a true Servant of the Lord?

Luke 13:10-17

Luke 14:1-5

1 John 3:11-18

"For Jesus human need poses a moral imperative. Where good needs to be done, there can be no neutrality, and failure to do the good is to contribute to the evil... A litmus test of true versus false religion is its response to injustice... The test of all theology and morality is either passed or failed by one's response to the weakest and most defenseless members of society. For Jesus the call of God presents itself urgently in the need of this particular man." - James R. Edwards

Saturday, October 3

Read Mark 3:7-35

As you prepare for tomorrow's message, read through this passage and note how the CROWDS (and others) react to Jesus Christ.