

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS – p. 7

“Answers to Your Questions”

Mark 2:13-28

Jesus, the Friend of Sinners Mark 2:13-17	Better than Fasting Mark 2:18-22	LORD of the Sabbath Mark 2:23-28
<p>Question: <i>“... ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”</i></p>	<p>Question: <i>“Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”</i></p>	<p>Question: <i>“Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”</i></p>
<p>Analogy: <i>“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...”</i></p>	<p>Analogies: <i>“Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.</i> <i>No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.</i> <i>And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”</i></p>	<p>Example: <i>“Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?”</i></p>
<p>Proposition: <i>“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”</i></p>	<p>Proposition (implied): Jesus is the new that fulfills the old.</p>	<p>Proposition: <i>“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”</i></p>

Jesus, Better than Fasting – 2:18-22

- v. 18 – *“Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, ‘Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?’”*
- “Now” is an important word – Think – “right now” “at this time”
 - John’s disciples would be the disciples of John the Baptist –
 - The Pharisees’ disciples are solidly anti-Jesus –
- Pharisee “fasting” –
 - There was only one fast required in the OT (on the Great Day of Atonement).
 - But like everything else, the Pharisees had twisted and added to the Scriptures and had a whole series of fasting they ascribed
- Contrast – Feasting v. Fasting –
 - There is a reason that Matthew, Mark, and Luke put these two stories back-to-back –
 - They want to draw the contrast between the disciples of Jesus taking part in the celebratory feast that Matthew hosted and the religious leaders’ disciples taking part in their fasting rituals.
- What was the purpose of fasting?
 - Fasting is all about increasing one’s spiritual hunger for God and the things of God.
- If your purpose in fasting is to have your spiritual appetite for God stirred – and if you are longing to rest in the Presence of God – then wouldn’t spending time with Jesus be the goal of fasting?

-Analogy 1 – The bridegroom

- v. 19 – *“And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.’”*
- The emphasis is on the presence of the bridegroom –
- v. 20 – *“The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.”*
 - Jesus makes clear that He is the bridegroom and makes a rather cryptic reference to His death on the cross –
 - After Jesus “taken away” to the cross, His disciples mourned like those fasting!

Analogy 2 – The patch

- v. 21 – *“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made.”*
- This is a good time to talk about what Jesus means when He talks about “old” –
- Judaism is the false religion that Jesus confronted and combated all during His earthly ministry.

-The difference between Judaism and the Gospel –

The Judaism of the Pharisees	The Gospel of Jesus Christ
Self-righteous works	God’s saving grace
Pride	Humility
Religious ceremony	Transformation of the heart
Man pleasing	God pleasing
Denied personal sin	Repentance from sin
Old/dead	New/life
Burden of rule keeping	Blessing of grace
Ritualistic	Relationship

Analogy 3 – The wine and wineskin

- v. 22 – *“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”*
- Old wine skins, like old material, represent Judaism’s practice of fasting –
 - The fasting had become more about the faster than the One the fasting was about!