

PART ONE: The Son of Man

Mark 1:35-2:28

Jesus hits the ground running. He has been identified as the Son of God by God Himself, been baptized, faced the devil in the wilderness, called four disciples, preached in the synagogue, cast out demons, and healed many. Now, He moves from Capernaum to other towns in Galilee and back again.

Read the entire passage of Mark 1:35-2:28, so that you have proper context when answering.

1. Use the following Scriptures to record what you learn about Jesus, who He is, His character, His purpose, and His abilities.

1:38 _____

1:41 _____

2:5a _____

2:5b _____

2:8b _____

2:17d _____

2:20 _____

2:28 _____

2. Jesus begins His day with prayer. How do you prioritize your time ensuring daily time in prayer? If you're not currently doing this, what could you do to start?

In our day and age, people are expected to be available 24-7, so it is important to remember it is okay if someone needs to "look" for you or wonders why you are not responding immediately. Simon (Peter) probably felt like he needed to know where Jesus was and what He was doing (v. 36-37), but Jesus set an example for us to follow when He took time to get alone in a solitary place to pray without interruption.

3. Jesus states in verse 1:38 that His purpose is to preach. Go back to Mark 1:14-15 and remind yourself of the message He was preaching.

4. How did Jesus respond to the man with leprosy? Be specific. (1:41)

5. Read Leviticus 13:45-46. Record what the law specified for one who had leprosy.

6. Consider again how Jesus responded to the man with leprosy. What does this tell you about His character?

7. What instructions did Jesus give to the healed man, and why did Jesus want him to do these things? (1:43-44)

Jesus returned to Capernaum. Word had spread quickly and many had gathered at the house where He was staying, including some of the Scribes.

8. Jesus recognized the faith of the four men who opened the roof and lowered their paralyzed friend. How can you demonstrate recognizable faith in Jesus? (2:5)

9. The Scribes were taken aback by Jesus' assertion that He could forgive a man's sins. According to verse 10, why did Jesus choose to heal the man of his paralysis in addition to forgiving him?

10. **THINK:** The physical needs of this man were obvious. Why do you think Jesus focused on his heart condition prior to dealing with his physical condition?

11. While teaching near the sea, Jesus spots Levi (Matthew) working in the tax collection booth and says, "Follow me". What do you think it means to follow Jesus? (2:14)

In this chapter, Jesus is confronted with five questions from the Scribes and Pharisees. Let's take a closer look at these questions and how Jesus responds.

12. The first two questions were raised when the paralytic was lowered through the roof. Record the two questions found in verse 7.

Question #1 _____

Question #2 _____

While neither question was verbalized, Jesus knew that the Scribes were reasoning in their hearts. He, in turn, questions them, making it clear that He understood what they had been thinking. This should have been a clue to them that Jesus was not an ordinary man, but they chose to remain ignorant.

13. **THINK:** Consider each of Jesus' responses and journal the point you think He was trying to make.

"Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?"	
"Which is easier to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'"	
"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins – Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."	

14. Look up Proverbs 3:5-6. How could the Scribes have applied this verse to the situation?

15. Where do you go for answers when you are confused? How can you use the Word of God to help you when you are trying to understand a situation?

16. The next three questions asked by the Pharisees were centered around Jesus and His disciples' behavior. Summarize the questions asked in verses 16, 18, and 24.

Question #3 _____

Question #4 _____

Question #5 _____

The name *Pharisee* means "separated ones." They separated themselves from everything they thought was unholy, and they thought everyone except themselves was separated from the love of God.

- David Guzik

17. When questioned about eating with sinners, Jesus gave the Pharisees an assignment which is recorded in Matthew 9:13. Explain what Jesus wanted them to do in your own words.

Mercy – mercy; kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them

Sacrifice – a sacrifice, victim

18. **THINK:** What did Jesus mean when He said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick”?

19. The next question posed to Jesus and His disciples was regarding fasting or better yet, the lack of it. Using verses 18 and 19, who do you think the bridegroom and the friends of the bridegroom referred to?

Jewish weddings were joyous occasions that spanned an entire week. Rabbis often taught that the celebration was to be the focus above any religious rituals. Jesus used this picture to let the Pharisees know that His being here among them was an equally joyous occasion. He then goes on to use two word-pictures (the old garment and the new patch, and the new wine and the old wineskins) to explain the new work that His coming would usher in. Jesus came to bring new life that cannot be contained and confined by old rituals and legalism.

20. The last question had to do with the disciples picking grain on the Sabbath. What point do you think Jesus was trying to make with His two statements of truth regarding the Sabbath in verses 27 and 28?

21. Using all you have studied so far, what can you learn and apply from the examples Jesus demonstrated in this passage?

A Closer Look at the People and their Responses to Jesus

The Leper

22. Record everything the leper did right and what this tells you about him. (1:40)

23. After being healed Jesus strictly warned him and gave him specific instructions: say nothing to anyone, show yourself to the priests, etc. What did he do? (1:45)

Choosing to tell the world about what Jesus has done in your life isn't a bad idea, but Jesus had given this man specific instructions about how He wanted him proceed. However, the newly restored man thought he knew a better way. His way made more sense to him than Jesus' way. He had trusted Jesus for healing and salvation, but he chose not to trust Him when it came to knowing what was best for his life moving forward.

24. What was the result of his disobedience? (v. 45)

The Paralytic and his Friends

25. Describe the kind of friends the four men were to the paralytic. (2:3-4)

26. What did the paralytic do in response to Jesus' instructions and what was the result? (v. 12)

27. What can you learn and apply in your own life from the leper, the paralytic, and his friends (positive and negative)?

Levi and the Multitudes

28. Look at verses 14-15, and describe all the ways Levi (Matthew) responded to Jesus' call to follow Him.

29. Note how the crowds responded to Jesus in verses: 1:37, 45; 2:2, 12-13, 15.

30. What can you learn and apply in your own life from Levi and the multitude?

In these verses, Jesus has shown Himself to be compassionate, authoritative, trustworthy, and powerful! May we all glorify God because of His wonderful Son.

PART TWO: A Focused Look at Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath Mark 2:23-28

Read Mark 2:23-24.

31. What day was it and what were the disciples doing?

32. Read Matthew 12:1. Matthew's Gospel gives a little more detail. What was the physical condition of the disciples and what did they do with the grain?

33. Read Exodus 20:10-11 What was the Sabbath? Write down the meaning of the Sabbath and what was expected of the Israelites.

Over time, the religious leaders added to the original law. However, they were never instructed to do so. These additions became known as the “oral tradition.” This resulted in 39 additional laws being added to the Sabbath command.

34. The Old Testament records the few requirements regarding the Sabbath. Look up the following verses and record what was expected of the Israelites on the Sabbath.

Exodus 35:3

Numbers 15:32-36

Jeremiah 17:21

Nehemiah 10:31, 13:15, 19

There is no mention of *plucking heads of grain* being a violation of the Sabbath. Read Matthew 12:2-3. Jesus’ response was in reference to 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Look up these verses and read them for context.

35. In Mark 2:25, how does Jesus describe the physical condition of David and those with him?

36. Was it lawful for David and his men to eat the showbread? Who was it for?

37. Read Matthew 12:7. What is it He desired

38. Jesus was quoting from Hosea 6:6. What else does this verse say?

Their knowledge focused on the oral tradition, not God's Word. They expected their own rules to be followed rather than God's.

39. What would they not have done if they had understood the Hosea verse? (v. 7)

Jesus was telling them that the need (hunger) is more important than the law. Mercy was given to David, and the Pharisees should have offered it to the disciples.

40. Next, Jesus reminds them of the intent of the Sabbath. Go back to Mark 2:27 and write out the verse.

The word *Sabbath* is the Hebrew word Shabbat, which comes from the root Shin-Beit-Tav and simply means "to cease, to end, to rest."

The Sabbath was given to man for rest. In its origin, it was rest from labor.

When Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath," He was attesting to the fact that, just as the Sabbath day was originally given to man to rest from his labors, so He came to give us rest so we would stop trying to earn salvation by our works. Because of His sacrifice on the cross, we can now forever cease laboring to attain God's favor and rest in His mercy and grace.

41. Read Mark 2:28. What statement does Jesus make?

Lord of the Sabbath - Possessed of the power to determine what is suitable to the sabbath, and of releasing himself and others from its obligations.

Today, rest is a Person. That person is Jesus. We now rest in Jesus.

Look up Matthew 11:28-30 and answer the following questions.

42. Where does our rest come from? _____

43. What does Jesus ask us to do in these verses?

44. What truth does He give us at the end of verse 30? Do you have an example of this truth in your own life? If so, share.

45. Read 1 Peter 5:7. Why can we cast our cares upon Him? What steps can you take to remember this the next time you need to let go of your worries and cares.

46. Read Psalm 55:22. What does this verse teach you about giving the Lord your burdens? Do you believe this?

47. The Sabbath was made for man and Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. Summarize what this means for you.

Jesus says to come to Him and He will give you rest. Come to Him, spend time with Him in His precious Word, and you will find rest. Today, our rest is in Jesus and no longer on a specified day of the week. Spend time with Him and find rest for your souls.