

October 2/3, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

A New Message Demands New Messengers

Mark 2:13-22

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Opening Discussion

1. Do you find it easy or hard to accept change? Why?
2. What do you consider good reasons for change? What happens if people or organizations are unable or unwilling to make necessary changes? What are some examples?
3. Which of the following terms best describes what the Church should be? Why?
Fortress Hospital Country Club Army

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 2:13-22.
2. Why did Jesus choose Levi, a tax collector hated by his fellow Jews, to be a disciple?
3. Why was Jesus criticized by the religious leaders of His day?

What was Jesus' response to their criticism?

4. If Jesus were attending LBC today, who would He spend time with? Where would He go? What would be His passion?
5. What is the mission of the Church?

What are you personally doing to reach lost people?

When was the last time you had an unbeliever in your home for dinner?

When was the last time you shared the good news of the gospel with someone?

6. The religious people of Jesus' day were so concerned about their religious rituals and rules that they failed to realize God was in their midst. Instead of celebrating, they were criticizing.

Are we ever guilty of holding on so tightly to our rules, programs, and methods of ministry that we lose sight of the mission and miss what Jesus is doing among us?
How?

7. The parable of the garment illustrated the truth that this radical new message of Jesus could not be simply attached to the existing religious structure. There was need for radical change to accomplish the mission. The wine and wineskins illustrated the truth that this radical new message would need to be poured into new containers (messengers). In other words, Jesus did not call the religious of His day to be His disciples because they could not let go of their religious rituals and practices to embrace this new message of grace. He chose new wineskins for this new wine.

Do we ever get so caught up in “doing church” that we lose sight of the purpose? How?

Can we become an old wineskin that is brittle and inflexible? Are we sometimes more concerned about our comfort and convenience than reaching lost people? Do we sometimes find ourselves grumbling about changes that might actually cause the Church to be more effective in her purpose?

Application

1. List three specific unbelievers in your life that you desire to reach for Christ.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

What can you do to build relationships with these people to open a door for the gospel? List them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2. What are you personally willing to do to accomplish the purpose Christ has given His Church?

What changes might you need to consider in order to help the Church become more effective in seeking to present people complete in Christ?

3. How do we prevent ourselves from becoming old inflexible wineskins that are useless to Jesus? How can we help each other with this?