

# Peace Lutheran Weekly Walk - Mark #2

## Answers

Peace Lutheran invites all members and guests to follow a weekly Bible reading series at home. For past handouts and suggestions for leading a family devotion, go to <https://peacewels.org/weekly-walk/>.

Questions about the readings can be addressed to either pastor or emailed to [weeklywalk@peacewels.org](mailto:weeklywalk@peacewels.org)

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help us see important truths in your Word. Use your law to show us we are indeed sick unto death with sin. Then come with your gospel message of peace in Jesus to heal us. Plant the good seed of your heart deep into our hearts and bring forth abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Day 1: Mark 2:13-27

Why were the Pharisees upset Jesus chose Levi (also called Matthew) to be a disciple and to eat at Matthew's house? Tax collectors have never been popular, but in Jesus' day they were considered thieves who misused the Roman tax system to make themselves rich at others' expense. They were also considered traitors as they helped the hated Roman invaders. Since the Pharisees thought they earned God's favor by what they did, they looked down on such obvious sinners as unworthy of any true teacher's time. By missing the mercy of God they did not understand Jesus' mission was to come and save the lost (which included them)

What is fasting? Fasting is not eating food, often done as a symbol of heartfelt grief or devotion. Fasting then is the opposite of feasting, which is done in times of special joy.

When would Jesus' disciples fast? When he would be taken away. After his death on the cross, the disciples would hide in locked room, they would not be celebrating and feasting (even though that was the time of special celebrations following the Passover). Today too, as we await Jesus' return we have occasions for sorrow as we long for Christ's joyful return.

How did the Pharisees think a person was saved? By their works, by how well they did at keeping God's laws and their own traditions. How well did they think they were doing? They thought they did great!

They thought they earned God's favor and so looked down on other obvious sinners like tax collectors who didn't. Sadly they were mistaken as everyone except Christ alone fails at keeping God's law perfectly.

Why is self-righteous pride so deadly? Pride that thinks I can save myself sees no need for Jesus, God's own Savior. It exalts our imperfection over God's perfect Son. Pride leaves no room for Grace. Why is it so important that we see ourselves as the "sick" sinners we are? Consider how Jesus words in 2:17 help us see this. We need to see that we are indeed sick with sin, sick to death!- so that we do not look to ourselves or our works to save ourselves (that will only lead to eternal ruin). But instead that we look to Jesus Christ alone, our Doctor of our souls.

Jesus came for all people, but those who think they are "healthy" by their own works will not want Him and the forgiveness He brings, because they are fine without Him.

What is the point of the mini-parable about patches and wine skins?

If you force new cloth onto old cloth, the new cloth path will destroy the old cloth when it is washed. Wine skins were goat or other animal skins used as containers to hold wine. Fresh new wine still ferments and expands, so it needs to go into fresh skins that still can stretch, while the old skins are brittle and will burst. You cannot take Christ and His forgiveness and stuff into old man made ideas of how to be saved by what you do, by your effort, your fasting, your obedience and sincerity (whether it is the Pharisees false teachings and traditions, or even an improper use of Old Testament laws that were given only for the people of Israel before the Savior came.)

## **Day 2: Mark 3:1-12**

What was wrong with the man in the synagogue? He had a physical problem, a withered hand that could not be used.

Why was Jesus angry with Pharisees who were there in the synagogue? The Pharisees had turned the Sabbath into a cruel and inflexible demand that missed the whole point of the Sabbath was about the mercy of God (Sabbath means rest and was a time for bodily, but also spiritual rest through the promises of God). Jesus was angry and distressed because they were refusing to admit clear truths of God's Word and causing spiritual harm not only to others but to themselves. How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus healing the man? They start to plan how they might kill him! What irony! They refuse to answer Jesus' obvious question that God wants us to save life rather than kill

on the Sabbath, but now they go out and truly break the Sabbath with their murderous plotting.

What does Jesus' healing so many people tell us about Him? He is indeed the Son of God--true God from true God, the Savior come to rescue, not merely by taking away physical ailments but come to deliver us from the sin that is the cause of all sorrow.

Why did Jesus forbid the demons to tell who He is? Though the evil spirits in this case were telling the truth, they are far from appropriate witnesses for the Son of God who has come to destroy the devil's work.

### **Day 3: Mark 3:13-35**

What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Disciple is a follower or a learner. Apostle is from a Greek word that means sent out. Jesus would "send them out to preach" (vs. 14). The Apostles would serve as special witnesses and preachers of Jesus' work, especially of His resurrection.

What does Jesus say makes someone part of his family (v.35)?

"Whoever does the will of God" is part of Jesus' family! What is God's will though? It is to believe in His one and only Son as we hear in 1 Timothy 2:3-4: "...God our Savior, who *wants* all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Who is the strong man in the illustration Jesus uses? It is Satan. He is a fallen angel and incredibly powerful.

Who is the "stronger man" who ties up the strong man to take his possessions in Jesus' illustration? Jesus is the one who has come to defeat the strong man and to rob his possessions. Entering this world dead in sin means we are part of the devil's fallen kingdom. But Christ came to rescue us from the devil's "domain of darkness" (Colossians 1:13) and bring us into His Kingdom, as His people (see 1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 2:1-10)

What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit that Jesus warns about?

Why is it unforgivable?

The following Quotation is from the EHV study Bible (available currently only in electronic format):

The sin against the Holy Spirit referred to in this passage is a persistent, willful, malicious rejection of the Holy Spirit's work on a person's heart through the gospel. It is unforgivable because the conscious rejection of the Holy Spirit (who works repentance and faith in a person's heart) makes repentance and faith impossible. The person who has committed this sin

has purposely and persistently driven the Holy Spirit away. (See also Matthew 12:31-32; Luke 12:10; 1 John 5:16).

Jesus' solemn warning is a sobering reminder to everyone that a person can become hardened against God to such a degree that repentance becomes impossible.

If a person is concerned or afraid that he has committed this sin, he has not. A person who commits this sin would no longer be concerned about it.

#### **Day 4: Mark 4:1-20**

Explain what each part of the parable stands for:

- the seed **God's Word**
- the seed on the path **when Satan steals the Word away**
- the seed on rocky ground **when faith is not well rooted in God's promises, trouble and persecution cause it to fall**
- the seed on the thorns **when the worries of life and desires for wealth and other things make the growing faith unfruitful, choking it out with the distractions**
- the seed on good ground. **when people, by God's grace, hear and accept the Word and produces fruit of faith in their life.**

Which result in the story describes us? (As you consider this question, what happens whenever the Word is sown?) **While praise God, His Word has taken root in our hearts so that we believe, yet the parable and Jesus call to "hear the word" shows us that at times we fit into all these categories! There are times we've heard important things from God's Word but have forgotten it (path). There are times we have let worry make us act like we don't know the promises of God to care for us (rock). At other times we get distracted and God gets pushed away from being at the center of our life (thorns). By God's grace, we hear these words, are called to see our sin and flee to Jesus our Savior and His gospel message that will produce fruit (good soil).**

What does this answer then encourage us to do? **Let us hear His Word and pay attention to it carefully!**

What are some reasons Jesus taught in parables?

From the EHV study Bible notes: **"11 Jesus used parables to reveal and to conceal. Parables were illustrations that Jesus used to explain things. They revealed truths to those who listened willingly, but for those who rejected the truths Jesus explained, the use of parables led to the hardening that is described in verse 12."**

#### **Day 5: Mark 4:21-29**

Why would it be silly to put a lamp under a basket or a bed?

The point of a light is to show its light, putting it under a basket or a bed will hide its light, or even put it out.

Given what Jesus says immediately after this in verse 23, for what does the lamp stand for and what is Jesus encouraging us to do? He wants his Word and its bright Light, the good news of God's love and forgiveness He brings to be heard and revealed, to us as we listen and to others as we tell.

What does Jesus say will happen if we pay attention to His Word and make generous use of it? The Holy Spirit will grant us a greater and deeper understanding. And what will happen if we refuse to make use of His Word? Rejecting the Word, we will lose it and the glorious treasures in Christ it brings us.

What does the parable of the seed teach us about how God's Kingdom is built (God's kingdom is not a place but how He rules and reigns in human hearts)? God's Kingdom of believers is grown through His Word. The tiny seed of God's Word does so much. It is powerful. He uses the seed of His Word to win over human hearts and keep them in faith in Him until the final harvest at the resurrection. It does not matter that the farmer does not know how the seed works, the fact is, the seed produces results. So it is with the good seed of God's Word! Let us make abundant use of it!

**Blessing:** How blessed is the person whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sin is covered (Psalm 32:2).

**Final thoughts:** May we ever make diligent use of God's powerful Word, that it may lead us to see our deadly sin-sick condition and look to Jesus as the only source of spiritual healing and life. The Lord promises His Word works and will bring blessing!

### **More Resources on Mark**

Answers for this week's questions may be found on the Peace Website

A Path Strewn with Sinners: A Devotional Study of Mark's Gospel & His Race to the Cross by Wade Johnston. Two copies available in church library.

[Read Scripture: Mark](#) by The Bible Project. Youtube.com