

MARK 2:18-28

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. In this section we have two more divisions (18-22 & 23-28) which relate two more events: the issue of fasting and the issue of picking grain on the Sabbath.
2. What two groups are mentioned in verse 18 and what are they doing? What question do they ask Jesus? Jesus answers the question with a question and three parables.
3. What are those three different pictures he uses to answer the question. (Remember, today we won't spend time attempting to understand the illustrations Jesus used, just identify and observe them).
4. What happens in verse 23? What day is it?
5. Who questions Jesus? What is their concern?
6. What story does Jesus use to answer the question of the Pharisees?
7. Who was the Sabbath made for?
8. What does Jesus say about himself in relation to the Sabbath? What title does he use in relation to himself?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What is fasting and what is its purpose?
2. Who asked the question in verse 18? Who are they? Do the disciples of John or the disciples of the Pharisees or both or some other group ask this question?
3. Why do you think they asked this question in verse 18? What was their motivation?
4. Why does Jesus answer the way he does? Who is the bridegroom and who are the attendants? What is he referring to in verse 20? What is that time period?
5. How do verses 21-22 help answer the question of why the disciples of Jesus do not fast?
6. What is the significance of the Sabbath? See Genesis 2:1-3 and Exodus 20:8-11. Why are the Pharisees so bent out of shape about picking grain to eat on the Sabbath?
7. Look up the story Jesus refers to about David and Abiathar (see 1 Samuel 21. Note: Ahimelech was Abiathar's son).
8. In what sense is the Sabbath made for man and not vice versa? Why don't we observe the Sabbath today? or, how is the Sabbath observed today?
9. What is Jesus trying to say in verse 28 by saying (again using the title "Son of Man") that He is Lord of the Sabbath?
10. Is there some thread that ties these four events in chapter two together? If so, what?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. Why is it that fasting has become a lost art in Christian circles? Set aside a meal this week to fast and pray.
2. The Sabbath principle is also one that has lost its effect because of lack of use. What is the value of a Sabbath rest and would you benefit from one? What do you do on the Sabbath (let's use Sunday for the sake of skipping the particular day argument)? What could you do that would make it more beneficial?
3. What impression do you get of Jesus from this passage? How does He deal with the conflict that He encounters in this passage? How do you deal with conflict in your life?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.