

Ron Armstrong • July 27 & 28, 2019

Original: This is New

Mark 2:3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. [5] When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

[6] Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking... [7] "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

[8] ...Jesus... said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? [9] Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? [10] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins... "He said to the paralytic, [11] "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." [12] He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

[15] While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. [16] When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

[17] On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

[18] Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

[19] Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.

[23] One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. [24] The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

[27] Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. [28] So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

A. The 4 controversies. (Can he do that?)

1. Can he forgive sins? Yes, come to him.
2. Can he EAT with those guys? Yes, but be the influencer, not the influenced.
3. Why aren't you guys fasting? You fast when your hurt is severe or your need is great.
4. Can you do that on the Sabbath? Yes, the Sabbath is for you. Every week should have work, WORSHIP, and rest.

B. Figuring out the Christian life is harder than it looks.

1. So, be disciplined with yourself and GENTLE with others.
2. Making good decisions requires learning what the Bible REALLY says.
3. Don't assume decisions are easy or obvious. Most decisions are TOUGH, or we wouldn't think about them.
4. Decisions are easier if we eliminate immoral and stupid decisions. Here's a helpful matrix:

	Morally wrong	Morally neutral	Morally right
Bad or risky idea	1	2	3
Okay idea	4	5	6
Good idea	7	8	9

5. Don't decide based on the extreme; extremes will push you into a different BOX.
6. Mark is using repetition again to show you: This is new. It's still new.