

Jesus & Religious Folk

Mark 2:13-3:6 (New American Standard Bible)

¹³ And He went out again by the seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.

¹⁴ As He passed by, He saw Levi (Matthew) the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

¹⁵ And it happened that He was reclining at the table in his house, and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many of them, and they were following Him. ¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "Why is He eating with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

¹⁸ John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they *came and *said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, "While the groom is with them, the attendants of the groom cannot fast, can they? As long as they have the groom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the groom is taken away from them, and then they will fast, on that day.

²¹ "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear results. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

²³ And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of

grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees were saying to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵ And He *said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath."

Chapter 3

³ He entered a synagogue again; and a man was there whose hand was withered. ² And they were watching Him closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³ He *said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" ⁴ And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. ⁵ After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He *said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might put Him to death.

Opening Discussion Questions

- Name a pet peeve you have in dealing with "church folk."
- If you don't have an answer for (a), let me welcome you to your first ever bible study!

Bible Study Questions

- Why do you think Jesus chose a tax collector to be part of his ministry? What do you think would be a modern-day equivalent to tax collector?

2. Why would it be a big deal that Jesus' disciples did not fast? How important is it that Christians fast in this day & age?
(*Nehemiah 1:1-7, Judges 20:26, Ezra 8:21-23, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 18:9-12, Acts 14:23*)

3. What is Jesus' response to the issue of fasting?
(*Nehemiah 8:9-12, Luke 2:37*)

4. What were Jesus' disciples supposedly doing wrong on the Sabbath? How does Jesus respond to the critics?
(*Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 16:29-34, I Sam 21:1-6*)

5. What are some aspects of church you would consider necessary and what would you say are merely tradition?

6. What were the Pharisees' attitude toward Jesus when he entered the synagogue? What does Jesus say to His detractors?
(*Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-6*)

7. What are some lessons you can learn from the Pharisees' mistakes?

8. What are some lessons you can learn from the way Jesus deals with disabled people as well as religious folk?
(*Ps 41:1-3, Luke 14:12-14*)
