

March 19, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 10)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

### Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

### Introduction

Describe a time in your life when you could not get along with someone. Whether it was a family member, a friend, a teacher, etc. What was the underlining reason underneath this rift? Was it ever resolved?

### Digging In

**Question 1: Read Mark 2:18** Jesus is being asked as to why His disciples don't fast like the Pharisees and the disciples of John. **Leviticus 16:29-34** taught about fasting in the OT and was required by Jewish law to practice once a year. **Read Matthew 6:16-18**. What was the entire purpose of fasting? How does this principle apply to your spiritual walk today?

**Question 2: Read Mark 2:19-20**. Jesus gives his first illustration relating to the principle of fasting. He explains the difference between the presence of the bridegroom and the absence of the bridegroom; and how the guests react when he's present and not present! There should be joy in the presence of Jesus! How do you practice this? Fasting is produced from a yearning to be in a deeper connection with Christ and a desire to know Him more. How can this be applied to your spiritual walk?

**Question 3: Read Mark 2:21**. Jesus gives another illustration about fasting and following OT law for one's righteousness. He talks about the absurdity of putting a new piece of cloth on an old garment. Eventually the new cloth will tear away! He is speaking to following the OT Mosaic law to finding salvation through God.

**Read Ephesians 4:22:24.**

In what ways do you need to "put off" the old self? How are you being "renewed" by the work of Christ through faith? Are you relying on your own works or "goodness?"

**Question 4: Read Mark 2:22** Jesus' last illustration is that of wine and wineskins. Jesus reiterates the same truth – there is a new era with new ways. The old way of doing things was simply a foreshadowing of what Jesus came to fulfill! **Read Matthew 5:17-19**. Jesus is emphasizing that it is possible to follow religious rules and not have a relationship with me! Is it possible you have tried something similar that the Pharisee's or religious leaders were doing? Is it possible you have relied on doing religious activities and missed the person of Jesus that all those things point to? How do you apply this to your life today?

## Taking it Home

Reflect on the illustration Jeff gave at the end:

- How do you try to mix your works with Jesus' righteousness given by grace through faith?
- In what ways do you trust in other things outside of the Gospel to save you?
- What should you seek God for forgiveness in trying to rely on things other than Jesus?

## Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?