

ENCOUNTER.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson Two: Encounter His Authority Mark 2-3

*But so that you may know that the Son of Man
has authority on earth to forgive sins.
Mark 2:10*

I. The Paralytic Healed (Mark 2:1-13)

The blessing of friends with faith. How have friends boosted your faith?

“You are the average of the 5 people you spend the most time with”
(quote attributed to Jim Rohn).

James R. Edwards provides this valuable insight,

The authority to heal and the authority to forgive are the same authority. “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” He said to the paralytic, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹

Edwards goes on to reveal that Son of Man (v. 10) “occurs 14 times in the book of Mark and only from the mouth of Jesus.” ²

I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a **Son of Man** was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed (Daniel 7:13-14).

II. Matthew Called and Dinner with Sinners (Mark 2:14-22)

Jesus was a public teacher who taught the masses. He called those who were on the fringe of society, not the religious elite. Jesus called the unlikely.

Edwards gives us informative commentary, “A Jew who collected taxes was disqualified as a judge or witness in court, expelled from the synagogue, and a cause of disgrace to his family (b. Sanh. 25b).”³

Jesus said, “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” (Mark 2:17).

Pharisees fasted on Monday and Thursday. The disciples of John the Baptist fasted. Why did Jesus’ disciples not fast?

When you think about a wedding celebration, there is usually a reception with food and a wedding cake. It is not a time of fasting. Jesus responds that while the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast, but they will when He leaves.

We are awaiting the arrival of our Bridegroom. We are to fast as we anticipate His return.

How to fast? In the Bible, fasting always pertains to food. We hear people talking about fasting from social media, television or certain activities. But true fasting is abstaining from food for spiritual reasons.

I fast not to change God’s mind, but to align my mind with His. Not to get my way, but that His Kingdom might come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven in my life. I surrender to His great love and perfect will. He is the Good Shepherd and my Heavenly Father. He has promised to never leave me nor forsake me. His promise is His Presence and His Presence is all I need.

III. Question of the Sabbath/Jesus Heals on the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-3:6)

Sabbath was made for man – it is part of God’s design and implemented at Creation. God did not design us to work 7 days a week. Our bodies were created for Sabbath.

John Mark Comer offers a helpful explanation:

The Hebrew word for Shabbat means, “to stop.” But it can also be translated “to delight.” It has this dual idea of stopping and also of joying in God and our lives in His world. The Sabbath is an entire day set aside to follow God’s example, to stop and delight.⁴

Ask yourself what you can do to set aside time to Sabbath – to build in margin and rest – to stop and delight in the Lord. Sunday is an obvious

choice for most of us. How can you prepare on Saturday to make Sunday a true day of rest?

- Prepare food for Sunday lunch ahead of time or have it ready to go in the crock pot the night before.
- Lay out clothes the night before.
- Set the alarm early enough to have time with the Lord before getting everyone fed and dressed for church
- Pray together in the car on the way to church – for Life Group leaders, Pastor and staff, for any lost who will attend the service.
- Do not plan anything for the afternoon – put away phones take a nap, take a walk, play a game with the family.

Edwards challenges us, “The test of all theology and morality is either passed or failed by one’s response to the weakest and most defenseless members of society. For Jesus the call of God presents itself urgently in the need of this particular man.” ⁵

James A. Brooks points out an important detail, “Jesus was angry not only at insensitivity toward suffering but at the entire system of legalism where the letter is more important than the spirit.” ⁶

IV. Healing and Demonic Deliverance (Mark 3:7-12)

The crowds continued to grow. Word traveled fast and people came from the surrounding regions. But the people were seeking Jesus for what He could do for them. They pressed in trying desperately to get to Him. So much so that He asked for a boat from which to teach.

Unclean spirits – “You are the Son of God!” (Mark 3:11)

V. The Twelve are Chosen (Mark 3:13-19)

“And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons” (Mark 3:13-15).

“It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles” (Luke 6:12-13).

They were appointed:

- A. To be with Him

- B. To preach – proclaim
- C. To cast out demons by His authority

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

VI. A Kingdom Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand (Mark 3:20-35)

“But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Luke 11:20).

If Jesus expelled demons, there was only one conclusion – He possessed an authority and power greater than the demons or the religious leaders. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to earth. Satan’s reign of death was over – there is now a higher law – The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ (Romans 8:2).

Alan Cole warns:

There is forgiveness with God for every sin and blasphemy except one, which may be the deadly sin of which John speaks so cautiously in 1 John 5:16. This is the sin of the willfully blind, who persistently refuse the illumination of the Spirit, oppose the Spirit’s work, and justify themselves in doing so by deliberately misrepresenting Him. For such, there can be no forgiveness, for they have refused the only way of forgiveness that God has provided: indeed, they have slammed the door [Mark 3:30].⁷

Christ’s family – “Whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:35).

We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness, bound to the natural, under the law of sin and death to the Kingdom of Light under a new law – the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ. We have gone from condemned criminals to Resurrected Royalty! We belong to the family of the King.

¹ Edwards, James R., *The Gospel According to Mark*, Logos.

² Edwards, James R., *The Gospel According to Mark*, Logos.

³ Edwards, James R., *The Gospel According to Mark*, Logos.

⁴ Comer, John Mark, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, p. 154.

⁵ Edwards, James R., *The Gospel According to Mark*, Logos.

⁶ Brooks, James A., *New American Commentary: Mark*, Logos.

⁷ Cole, Alan, *Mark: An Introduction and Commentary*, Logos.