

The Gospel of Mark: Session 2

...the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (1:1)

Basic Outline

1. Jesus Heals a Paralytic (2:1–12)
2. Jesus Calls Levi (2:13–17)
3. A Question about Fasting (2:18–22)
4. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (2:23–28)
5. A Man with a Withered Hand (3:1–6)

Additional Passages to Read for Context

Related to 2:7 (“He is blaspheming!”), read Mark 14:64.

Related to 2:10 (“the Son of Man”), read Daniel 7:13–14.

Related to 2:23 (plucking grain on the Sabbath), read Deuteronomy 23:25.

Related to 2:25 (David and the bread), read 1 Samuel 21:1–6.

Questions to Consider as You Read

We mentioned that Mark often mentions three groups of people throughout his gospel: the disciples, the crowds, the opposition. As you read for this session, what is happening with each group? Does one group seem to be featured more prominently?

In the 1st passage, what do the people identify as humanity’s greatest need, physical healing or spiritual healing? What does Jesus say is humanity’s greatest need?

In the 2nd passage, we see the first mention of the term “disciples” in 2:15. Notice that “disciples” are mentioned in close proximity to “tax collectors and sinners.” What is the difference between “tax collectors and sinners” and “disciples.”

In the 3rd and 4th passages, is it the actions of Jesus or the actions of the disciples that bring about the controversy?

In the 5th passages, how are the Pharisees responding to Jesus in 3:6? How has this progressed from 2:6–7?