

Home Community Study & Discussion

Week of November 10, 2013

Read through Mark 2:18-22



Questions About the Text Following Up on the Sermon

- Look again at Mark 2:13-17. The first metaphor Jesus used to answer the seekers' question (verse 18) was of a wedding. Why do you think that was an appropriate picture? What did it have to do with Jesus "eating with sinners"? (verse 15)
- What do you think Jesus' teaching in verses 19-22 might have taught those people who came to ask him about fasting (verse 18)?
- Read verse 19. Compare Jesus' predictions in Mark 8:31, 9:22, 9:31 and 10:34. Why do you think Jesus said the wedding guests would fast when He was "taken away"?
- What do we learn about how to treat new believers from the cloth-patch metaphor (verse 20)?
- What do we learn from the wineskin metaphor (verse 21)?

Questions From the Text Not Addressed by the Sermon

- Notice the "scribes of the Pharisees" in verse 16. They probably heard Jesus' answer to the seekers (verses 18-22). What do you think they thought as they listened to Him?
- In the sermon I suggested the interpretation of the cloth-patch and wineskins favoured by John Calvin, Matthew Henry and others: "that Jesus is drawing a picture of how "old" Christians disciple "new" believers." What are some other possibilities for interpreting these metaphors? (Old & New Testaments, etc.) Which seems correct to you as you think about the whole passage?

In What Ways Does God Reveal Himself in this Passage? What Do We Learn About God Here?

- What do we learn about Jesus' attitude toward sin in this passage?
- What do we learn about Jesus' attitude toward sinners in this passage?

What Ethical Questions Does this Passage Raise? Right vs. Wrong? Moral vs. Immoral?

- Is it right to let people with sinful bad habits come to church?
- Is it wrong to remove people from the church when they don't act like "good Christians" should?

In What Ways Do You See the Gospel Foreshadowed in this Text? Does it teach us about God's Holiness? Does it teach us about sin? Does it teach us about repentance? Does it teach us about God's grace?

- What does this passage teach us about God's patience in changing saved sinners to become more like Jesus?

How does this passage help us grow in our love for and trust in Jesus?