

**A Study of the Gospel of Mark**  
**Week 2: Mark 2:1-3:6 | Sept. 14/15, 2013**

**Discovering Jesus, Part II:**  
**If I follow Him, what's in it for me?**



Last week in chapter 1, Mark began his Gospel immediately establishing Jesus' unique identity, His remarkable authority over people, demons and disease, and His compassion. Men left their businesses to follow Him and people sought Him out "from everywhere." Their response to Jesus was amazement.

In Mark 2, Jesus' amazing authority meets with both acceptance and opposition. In this section, Jesus makes it clear that He came to bring great benefits to all who would follow Him: forgiveness, purpose and rest. [Q] Which benefit do you need right now?

### Mark 2:1-12 | Forgiveness

[Q] If your friends brought you to Jesus, what would *they* want Him to do for you?

[Q] Read Colossians 2:13-14. What practical, everyday difference does it make that Jesus not only has the authority to forgive, but also chooses to forgive all your sins?

**Apply:** Write down a few things to talk to Him about.

### Mark 2:13-22 | Purpose

[Q] Jewish tax collectors in New Testament times collaborated financially with Rome against their fellow Jews. What would Jesus' authority over forgiveness mean to Levi (Matthew)?

[Q] How would following Jesus change Levi's life purpose? What was one of the first things Levi (Matthew) did? (verses 14-15)

[Q] How is sin like sickness? (verse 17) Have you partnered with Jesus in the healing process of a human soul? Please describe.

**Apply:** [Q] How would you describe your purpose in following Jesus and how is your purpose reflected in your relationships?

**Mark 2:23-3:6 | Rest**

Exodus 23:12

*Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed. (NIV)*

[Q] What does Jesus mean that He is Lord of the Sabbath? (See Colossians 2:16-17 and Matthew 11:28-30.) What is the point of the Sabbath?

**Extra: Fasting**

[Q] In Mark 2:18–22, people ask a question. What do you think of the three analogies Jesus uses to answer?

[Q] What would life be like if you viewed it as a wedding feast, despite the difficulties and trials?

**Apply:**  
[Q] What benefits of a Sabbath rest do you (and your family) need? How will this impact your week?

Talk with other group members about your ideas for applying this week’s lesson and commit to encouraging one another.

**Pray**

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