

LIFE OF A SERVANT**The Authority of the Son of Man****Mark 2**

"And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins." Mark 2:22

Day 1: Read Mark 2:1–12.

1. How much “head knowledge” do you think the men bringing the paralytic had about Jesus? How is their faith nevertheless apparent? (Compare James 2:18)
2. What reactions do you think people in the crowd might have had to what these men were doing? What do you think your reaction would have been?
3. How does Jesus respond? Do you think this is what the men were expecting? Explain.

Day 2: Read Mark 2:1–12.

4. According to the Law, a priest could pronounce forgiveness only after very specific sacrifices and rituals (e.g., Lev. 5:5–10; 17:11). To the teachers of the law, there was no basis for Jesus’ declaration of forgiveness. But what does Jesus know that they do not? (Mark 10:45; Heb. 10:1, 5–7, 10)
5. “The Son of Man” (vs. 10) was probably not a title that meant much to Jesus’ listeners. Yet what does Dan. 7:13–14 suggest Jesus is saying about himself?
6. If Jesus does what might seem to be the harder thing (the physical healing of the paralytic), what does that show about his declaration of forgiveness? (Compare Deut. 18:22; Jn. 9:31–33)
7. What does this passage show us is our deepest need? How has Jesus met that need? (Col. 1:19–22)

Day 3: Read Mark 2:13–17.

8. What can you deduce about tax collectors in ancient Palestine? (vss. 15–16)
9. Why are the Pharisees critical of Jesus in this passage? Why do you think they feel this way?
10. At first glance, it might sound like Jesus is saying in verse 17 that the Pharisees are indeed “righteous” and that they consequently have no need of him. What do you think Jesus really means?

11. In some ways, this meal foreshadows the wedding supper in heaven (Rev. 19:6–9). Who will be at the table? Who will not? Why? (Mt. 8:10–12; Lk. 14:15–24; Rev. 3:20)
12. What group or person do you tend to view as “beyond saving”? How do you think Jesus views the same group or person?

Day 4: Read Mark 2:18–22.

13. Jesus is using wedding imagery here. Why are the Pharisees missing out on the joy of the bridegroom’s arrival?
14. Jesus’ listeners probably did not attach much significance to his use of the term “bridegroom” for himself, but what claim can we see that Jesus was making, since we have the big picture from the Bible? (Is. 62:4–5; Hos. 2:16, 19–20; Rev. 19:6–7; 21:2–3)
15. Jesus’ examples of the cloth and wineskins contrast the old and the new. What is the “old” thing? What is the “new”? (Consider Mark 2 first; then glance at Gal. 3:23–25; Col. 2:16–17.)
16. How do you find yourself trying to patch Jesus onto your ideas, your plans, your rules? What does he offer you instead? (2 Cor. 5:17)

Day 5: Read Mark 2:23–27.

17. In answering the Pharisees’ criticism, Jesus implies a comparison between himself and the great King David. What does such a comparison suggest about Jesus? (Is. 11:1–5, 10 [note that Jesse is David’s father]; Jer. 23:5–6)
18. Look at the following passages about the Sabbath: Gen. 2:2–3; Ex. 20:8–11; 31:13–17.
- a. Who established the Sabbath?
 - b. How important was the keeping of the Sabbath?
19. Given this background, what claim is Jesus making when he declares that “the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath” (vs. 28)?
20. As you have gone through your week and done this lesson, how have you seen a need for “newness” in your own heart? Take a moment to pray that God’s Spirit would work in your heart.