

Lesson 1: Accepting Truth and Change

Scripture Reference: Mark 2: 1-28

In chapter two there are several dynamics that are taking place. One, Jesus has healed a paralyzed man of a sickness, by forgiven the man of his sins. Jesus then speaks life to the man telling him to pick up his pallet and walk. Jesus completely heals the man of spiritual sickness and his physical sickness.

The other amazing aspects of what Jesus does is in this chapter, is prove to the scribes and the crowd that He was God. The scribes asked, “who can forgive sins, but God alone?” Jesus showed forth His authority as God by cleansing the man of sin.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Pray for Divine Healing for your body!

Consider 2:1-13 which reveal two important points:

First, Daily and consistently, cleanse your spirit of sin. Sin breaks down our physical health, whether we realize it or not. When a person has unforgiven sin in their life, it inflames the sickness, thus making a person’s physical condition worse.

Scripture Reference for daily spiritual cleansing – Psalm 51:1-2. Quote and make it personal to your life, pointing out the specific sins in your life, asking God to cleanse and forgive those sins. The next part of the process is repenting of the sins, meaning turning your back on those sins. Regardless how much physical pleasure or the amount of requirement of change is necessary, repentance is necessary for your overall health.

Second, Pray consistently about **Divine Healing** in your life. Sickness is a violation and or an intruder in your life disrupting what God intended. When God created Adam, he never intended for him to be sick. Well, if that was God’s original intent, that’s the plan and will of God that we should pray for as well.

Divine Healing, is complete healing and curing from the ailments that plague your body. Thus, when you pray, set aside a time in your prayer life just to pray for your health and well-being, and sickness and or disease that is in your body. Begin to speak to that sickness, by saying, “By his stripes I am healed.” Refuse, saying “I am getting better of feeling better.” Rather say, I am being healed and God is healing me.” When you speak those scriptures over your life, it changes your mentality regardless of how you feel.

Lesson Focus

OBJECTIVE: To focus your life on the calling of God and the change that is necessary,
To fulfill the Will of God, consistently throughout your life.

I. The Calling Requires Change

Jesus called His disciples to follow and join Him in Kingdom Building.
What lessons do we learn from the calling of Levi?

Scripture Reference: Mark 2:14-17

The Reason for a believer to Change is simple; We are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation requires us to change. Read Romans 6:1 and give a reason why a believer should change: _____

Discipleship is the discipline to follow Jesus Christ, by surrendering to His Word and His will. It also involves a lifestyle change in one's behavior and practices.

God desires change of us, to do His Will

How do we define God's Will:

God's Will includes using ones:

1. _____
2. _____
3. Spiritual _____

To actively engage in God's Will you must be willing to:

A. To Follow Christ – vs. 14

- a. Levi, the Tax Collector – Matthew 9:9

What did Levi give up in that moment to follow Christ: _____

- b. Levi had a network of co-workers. Vs 15-17

What do you think about Jesus sitting with tax collectors and sinners at his house? Is that appropriate? Is that something Christians should do today?

QUESTION: In what ways is Christ, calling you to follow Him?

List actions steps in following Christ:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

B. Receive Righteous healing vs. 17

For a believer to truly walk in the fulfillment of their calling, one must receive the righteousness of Christ

Why are Christians confused and or refusing to accept God's righteousness?

1. Moral Righteousness – The Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17
2. Earthly Sins – Colossians 3:5
3. Bad Behavior – Colossians 3:8-9
4. Proper Behavior – Colossians 3:12-17
5. Love People – John 13:34-35

Bad behavior dilutes the fulfillment of the calling in what ways:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

II. Change Requires Accepting New

Scripture Reference: 2:18-22

Believers first accept that there is a new relationship that exists between God and man:

A. Jesus was asked about fasting vs. 18

Fasting is a spiritual discipline practiced by believers to draw upon the Holy Spirit. It is a good discipline to practice regularly. Often in the Christian walk, we allow the flesh to dominate our behavior and practices. But fasting is a method to stay focused and discipline.

Is fasting a discipline you practice?

1. The wedding feast symbolized the covenant relationship between God and man. (Isaiah 54:4).
2. Jesus is the Bridegroom – John 3:29
3. A marriage relationship means two people commitment themselves to other another. The commitment is publicly known through the pronouncement at the wedding.
4. Weddings are to be enjoyed and not burdensome. Nor is the Christian faith to be weighed down with ritualism.

5. Sinners commit to Jesus as their Lord and saviour through the spiritual covenant relationship. In this relationship Jesus shares his power, wealth, knowledge, protection, compassion, and love towards His people.
6. Thus, Jesus was saying as long as you have me, there is not a need to fast, for I am here to help you in the spiritual journey.

B. Jesus explains New Garments and New wineskins vs. 21-22

Jesus came to introduce new aspects for a believer's life, not to patch up the old life. can you put new garments on old garments.

1. The religious leaders were impressed with Jesus' teaching, Mark 2:13, but not to the point of accepting all of it. They were still holding on to aspects of Judaism.
2. So, Jesus, points out that you cannot pour new wine into new wineskins, nor
3. Thus, the new is stronger and better.
4. Jesus came to usher in a new way of living:
 - a. Jesus offered a new covenant – Luke 22:19-20
 - b. Jesus offered a new way of living – Romans 8:6
 - c. Jesus offered a faith that could be trusted – Hebrews 11:6
 - d. Jesus stated that His name, is the only name that matters – Acts 4:12

C. Christians are not to mix the old with the new.

CONCLUSION: Have you made any decisions lately to change?

Let's briefly think through change:

1. Change is not automatic – have you made any determinations to change your mind, ie beliefs, attitude, thinking.
2. Think in order to change, you may have to change your beliefs, which changes your expectations.
3. Changing your attitude changes your behavior. Your attitude determines your behavior.