

Quarter Three: The Book of Mark

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Lesson 3—Controversies

Thursday: Sandwich Story: Part 2

July 18, 2024

- **Last Week:** “A Day in the Ministry of Jesus”
 - Launch of Jesus’ ministry
 - Calling of 4 disciples & healing / miracles on Sabbath in Capernaum
- **This Week:** “Controversies”
 - 5 stories of controversy: Jesus’ teaching in contrast to the religious leaders’ teaching
 - Illustrate who Jesus is (Mark 2:1 – 3:6)
 - Forgiveness
 - Sinners / Feast
 - Fasting
 - Food on the Sabbath / Sabbath made for man
 - Sabbath keeping
 - Sandwich Story (Mark 3:20 – 35)

Memory Text: “And He said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.’” (Mark 2:27, 28, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Healing a Paralytic (John L)
 - Mark 2:1 – 12 – Story 1: forgiveness & healing; “lesser to greater” argument (if He could heal, He could surely forgive)
- 2. **Monday:** Calling Levi & Question of Fasting (John D)
 - Mark 2:13 – 22 – Story 2 & 3: feast with “sinners”; Jesus’ disciples not fasting
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Lord of the Sabbath (Ryan)
 - Mark 2:23 – 28; 3:1 – 6 – Story 4 & 5: what is proper Sabbath observance? (disciples plucking grain on the Sabbath & healing of the withered hand on the Sabbath)
- 4. **Wednesday:** Sandwich Story: Part 1 (Daniel)
 - Mark 3:22 – 30 – Inner story – scribes from Jerusalem, charging Jesus with being in collusion with the devil
- 5. **Thursday:** Sandwich Story: Part 2 (Jill)
 - Mark 3:20, 21 & 31 – 35 – Outer story – Jesus’ family says He’s crazy; Jesus’ redefinition of family

Sandwich Story: Part 2

Outer story: Mark 3:20, 21 & 31 – 35

- Sandwich Story, Part 2 = Outer part of the story
- First part of the sandwich:

- Mark 3:20, 21 – “Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. (21) But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, ‘He is out of His mind.’”
 - Greek includes end of vs 19 – “...And they went into a house.” (other translations do, too)
 - Context: just called 12 disciples. Then went into a house & the multitude came & they couldn’t even eat
 - Amplified, Vs 20: “Then He came to a house [in Capernaum], and a crowd formed again, so [many people] that Jesus and His disciples could not even eat a meal [together].”
 - Amplified, Vs 21: “When His own family heard this, they went to take custody of Him; for they were saying, ‘He is out of His mind.’”
 - Charge of mental instability: “He is out of His mind”
 - Lacking in sound judgment
 - A danger to themselves or others
 - *From our “experience,” we would side with Jesus’ family:
 - Fill yourself before helping others
 - Can’t help the whole world
 - Take it in baby steps
 - Self-care is important
 - Don’t be so nice
 - Learn to say “no”
 - Family on their way to stop this
 - Do an intervention
 - Help those who cannot help themselves
- Inner sandwich
 - Scribes charging Jesus with collusion with the devil
 - Parallel between 2 stories:
 - Family says Jesus is crazy
 - Scribes say Jesus is in league with the devil
- Outer sandwich
 - Mark 3:31 – 35 – “Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. (32) And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.’ (33) But He answered them, saying, ‘Who is My mother, or My brothers?’ (34) And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! (35) For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.’”
 - What just happened here?
 - Could appear – Jesus ignoring His family
 - The Jesus who was too “nice” & couldn’t seem to say “no” – stands up when it’s the hardest
 - Jesus redefined the term “family”
 - Family is not necessarily biological; family is spiritual

- Who is our family?
 - Whoever does the will of God
 - 1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - Fellowship = *koy-nohn-ee'-ah* = spiritual fellowship
- **Application:** Family is dysfunctional / not Christian
 - **How to set boundaries?**
 - How to say, “Where are my brothers and mother?”
 - Who are you?
 - How to place space & division in our relationship?
 - **How to find like-minded “family?”**
 - How to redefine family members as those who do the will of God
 - How to find spiritual fellowship – *Koy-nohn-ee'-ah*
 - Lonely, stressful, hard when family don’t walk with God or are toxic or dysfunctional
- **3 keys to “leaving & cleaving”** (create space in dysfunctional relationships & find healthy)
 - **1. Don’t internalize it** (make it your fault)
 - *Jesus – didn’t “I was 30 years with u, and failed at helping u understand My mission”
 - Instead, **create space where it’s needed**
 - “Who are My mother and My brothers?”
 - **2. Don’t allow others drama to influence you**
 - *Jesus – didn’t allow the drama of His family outside to influence His current activity or ministry
 - Instead, **redefine family / friends**
 - The ones who do the will of God
 - Find godly, likeminded Christians
 - Koinea
 - Look for
 - Safe – trustworthy, healed
 - Godly / Christian – seeking God
 - **3. Don’t make your worth / value dependent on other’s opinions**
 - *Jesus – “what will people think if I refuse My family?”
 - Instead, **focus on what really matters: “Who am I in Christ?”**
 - *Jesus knew where He came from and where He was going
 - Eph 1 – In Christ, I am
 - Blessed, chosen, Holy
 - Adopted, accepted, forgiven, redeemed