

“THE” Model to Follow

Mark 2



Hook: What is the difference between being religious and being a Christian? Religious people believe and are focused more on the externals of their lives. They do, do, do, certain practices are significant to keep.

-James 2:19, says that “The demons believe, and tremble.

-Christians focus on a personal relationship with the living, loving, life giving, life changing Savior, Jesus Christ the King of Glory. They grow in their love relationship with Him knowing that our life flows out of our love for Him or lack there of.

-A great question we need to ask is: “Are we more religious than Christian in our living?”

-Today we continue our study in the gospel of Mark—Chapter 2, “THE” Model to Follow.” The one to emulate---Become like!

-Jesus had become so popular because of al He was doing, people by the droves were following Him. Many for the wrong reason. Very similar to people today, where people are enthralled with His miracles and yet they ignore His message.

-We are introduced to the Religious people of the day. Let’s meet them...

-Scribes—Copyists of the law. They came to be regarded as the authorities on the scriptures. They are frequently associated with a group called the Pharisees.

-Pharisees—The spiritual descendants of the pious Jews. “Seperatists.” Their strictness separated them from their fellow Jews. Loyalty to truth sometimes produces pride. Paul was a part of this group when he was Saul of Tarsus.

-Saducees—Denied the authority of tradition and looked with suspension on all revelation later than the Mosaic law. They were people of wealth, position, they controlled the priesthood and rituals in the temple.

-These three groups of people were following Jesus because of His popularity, trying to catch Him doing things against the law and all the time ignoring His message. Chapter 2 is about the conflict that occurred between the religious leaders of the day and Christ.

-Christ’s messages in chapter 2 is one of “Forgiveness, Fellowship, Fulfillment, and Freedom.”



-1st Disagreement: 1-12---on Forgiveness

-This is a very familiar story. “And” is a word of connection to the past that was written. This was Capernaum—Simon Peter’s house very likely which was their base of operation.

-Houses of that time had flat roofs, laths, tiles, grass, and a stairway leading to the roof.

-Jesus backed up His word of forgiveness by healing—healing friends was marked by being instantaneous, complete and total. The man healed got up and grabbed his pallet and went out in the sight of all.

-The Scribes knew that with this act, Jesus was claiming to be God.

-“Reasoning in their heart” not speaking out just thinking their thoughts, Jesus draws them out.

-Jesus could have said to the man, “Your sins be forgiven,” but instead He stated, “Your sins ‘are’ forgiven. Thus with this statement, He claimed He is God!

-This was the start of the religious leaders’ opposition to Jesus that would eventually lead to His crucifixion.

-Let’s back up a second---“The Church in 2014 needs stretcher bearers.”

-Many people today are paralyzed with the sickness of some sin in their life. They are not just going to walk into a church. They must be loved enough by friends to be invited and brought!!

-Three characteristics that marked these four friends:

1. Their love for their friend
2. Their concern to get him to Jesus
3. Their faith that Jesus would heal him

-2nd Disagreement Vs. 13-17. About who to Fellowship with

-Religious people were the popular, wealthy crowd. The social crowd, pious ones of the day.

-Jesus went to Levi (Matthew’s) house “The tax collector”

-What “Rabbi” would want a “Tax collector” as a disciple? These were Jews who



worked for Rome—looked on as traitors both to God and Israel.

-Yet Matthew God up and followed Him. Knowing he would lose his job, position and all he had earned with the Roman government.

-He not only called them, Jesus fellowshiped with them---called them His friends!

-Jesus sees sinners as sick people who need a physician and He is the Great Physician.

-The new thing in they were being presented with, that in Christianity, it is not only about the doctrine that God saves sinners, the Jews would have denied that. It is the assertion that God loves and saves them as sinners. This is the authentic and glorious Doctrine of true Christianity in any age.

-3rd Disagreement Vs. 18-22, came not only as a Great Physician but as the Bridegroom

-Friends, it is more important to be related to Him and have fellowship with Him than it is to fast.

-Dr. Wiersbe once said, “The Christian life is a feast, not a funeral.” Mourning is not appropriate when walking with Him. Joy in His presence needs to mark our life.

-He came to the law---complete it, by His sacrifice for man’s sins. He didn’t come to patch up (law) but to bring in the new (grace).

-Now, it’s not wrong to fast—but to do it at the expense of a personal, loving, relationship with the bridegroom is wrong. It should deepen this relationship.

-4th Disagreement Vs. 23-28 About Freedom

-The Pharisees were watching everything Jesus did, and I believer were fuming by now.

-Jesus refused to argue the issue with them, instead He claimed again to be “God.” He is Lord of the Sabbath.

-Meeting of human need is more important than protecting a religious practice.

-J. Vernon Magee, once said, “This is a great principle in respect to the Sabbath day and its meaning. The Sabbath was really made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Another great principle is, that the Lord Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath. Both those things



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are very important. Remember that we are not under the old Mosaic system concerning the Sabbath day because it was a part of the covenant between the nation of Israel and God.”

-To Jesus, the Sabbath was not created for its own sake, it was a gift of God to man. it’s purpose was not to put man in a strait jacket. It was for man’s good, to provide rest from labor and opportunity to worship.

-Since the Sabbath was made for man, He who is man’s Lord...has authority to determine it’s law and use!

-Conflicts, disagreements abound when rules and regulations govern our lives.

-Religious people focus on the externals, the do’s and don’t do’s.

-Christianity offers four wonderful things to focus on:

- Forgiveness
- Fellowship
- Fulfillment
- Freedom

-We are filled with grace, truth and love.

Closing question: “Are we more religious in our belief’s than Christian?”