

Into the Life of Jesus

A study in the gospel of Mark

Study #7

Review of last week: Mark 2:1-13

Last week we discussed the account of the four men who helped the paralytic get to Jesus. As you look back at the past week can you think of any experiences where you needed and received a helping hand?

- Where did help come from? Had you expected that?

This week: Digging into Mark 2:18-22 – Jesus, fasting and New Wineskins

It's helpful to read the text aloud using several different versions read at different paces. The goal here is to pick up on different details that you might otherwise miss if you read it through only once.

- Why do you think it was an issue that Jesus and his disciples were not fasting?
- What was Jesus wanting them to see when he compared Himself to a bridegroom?
- Our experience with mending old garments might be limited, but what was Jesus getting at with the idea of combining new and old fabric?
- What happens as wine ferments? What could you picture happening to the old wine skin? How might this relate to us and the faith-traditions to which we hold fast?

Implications and Applications

- What role has fasting played in your life with God? Why is this?
- In this passage, Jesus doesn't dismiss wineskins; He simply calls for new wineskins. What practices are we prone to leave behind that, instead of abandoning, need renewal? Explain.
- Within the bounds of orthodoxy, how should we respond to fellow Christians who practice the faith differently to us? (i.e. who use different wineskins)
- Change can be hard. Can you think of some words to describe the ideal attitude to hold when things in your life, or your church's life enters a new chapter?

Pray: *Lord, fill us with wisdom to discern your renewing ways,
and grace as we deal with differences in others.
As we are called to sew on patches of peace,
give us humility and love for each other.*