

Centering Scripture: John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Focus Text: Mark 2

Jesus Heals the Paralytic

2 When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

I. Introduction

What are you willing to do to get a word from God?

II. How to deal with the unexpected

A. Endless Determination

B. Crazy Faith

III. The Bigger Picture

What are you willing to do to help someone else get a word from and be healed by God?

Jesus Calls Levi

⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” ¹² And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

I. The Social Context

A. Us vs Them (i.e. Jews vs Gentiles)

Compare “The Gentiles” to modern day Secular Culture and “The Jews” to modern day Sacred Culture

II. Get to know Levi

Tax collector with an edge, yet hospitable. Kept the company of sinners

III. Dinner Guests

A. Jesus, His disciples and “The Sinners”

B. Who are “The Sinners?”

The notoriously wicked social outcasts (secular) who flouted Jewish law (sacred) aka
“the unrighteous”

IV. The Pharisees

Questions to ponder

1. Why is it that Jesus is willing to embrace and welcome social outcasts in his life, but the church struggles?
2. What kind of Church do we Wheat Street want to be?
3. Are we willing to adjust to the new times the same way Jesus did?

The Question about Fasting

¹⁸ Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

²¹ “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.”

I. It’s all about the Fast

A. What is a fast

Abstaining from certain foods and other things for religious reasons.

Biblically, there are 2 types of fasts; Private and Public

Fasting only REQUIRED on the Day of Atonement

B. Why/When to fast?

1. Express repentance
2. Mourning a death (especially of religious leaders)
3. Seeking divine counsel or help
4. Devotion to God

II. Why were John’s disciples and the Pharisees disciples fasting?

A. Mourning a Loss

B. Purely Piety

III. Revelation in the Responses

A. Question regarding John the Baptist's disciples handled

B. Question regarding the Pharisees' disciples handled

Question: Will the church accept the new wave of believers and thinkers that God is sending?

Pronouncement about the Sabbath

²³ One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ²⁵ And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶ He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." ²⁷ Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸ so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

I. Y'all better RECOGNIZE!

A. Abnormal behavior
