

## Food Fights!

Mark 2.13-22

Bob Dylan & Joan Baez: BRASH KIDS, Folksingers: Anti-American Communists!  
 Dared Challenge Sacred Belief > USA God's Favorite Nation > UPSET People!  
 ENRAGED Establishment > DELIGHTED those Outside Realms of Power  
 2000 yrs Earlier BRASH, DARING Young Man Shook Things Up Big Time

1<sup>st</sup> Controversy: Jesus as Son of Man heals a paralytic and forgives sin (2.1-12)

2<sup>nd</sup> Controversy: Jesus calls Levi and eats with sinners (2.13-17)

3<sup>rd</sup> Controversy: Jesus' disciples did not practice fasting (2.18-22)

4<sup>th</sup> Controversy: Jesus' disciples violate the Sabbath (2:23–28)

5<sup>th</sup> Controversy: Jesus heals on the Sabbath (3:1–6)

## Read Mark 2.13-22

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> FOOD Fights > JESUS Attacked for EATING by those NOT EATING  
 Just FINISHED Ramadan > FOOD and RELIGION HOT TOPIC in Many Faiths

5 Stories of Conflict > Issue: Character of God and Forgiveness offered by Jesus  
*a. Scene Set / b. Accusation against Jesus / c. Jesus Authoritative Word of Defense*  
 AUTHORITY!?! We say 'Yeah, Jesus!' / They: 'How DARE this UPSTART!'

1. Salvation

2. Celebration

3. New Creation

1. Salvation – Great News for the Greatly Needy

a. Proclamation > Jesus DEFINED Himself as a PREACHER

Jesus: "Let's go somewhere else – to the nearby towns and villages – *so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.*" Mark 1:38

v.13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.

CROWDS Come > He's READY > Uses Father's NATURAL AMPITHEATER

ONE Verse ABRUPT & FRAGMENTARY Account of Jesus' Teaching Ministry

Jesus went into Galilee, <i>proclaiming</i> the good news of God.	Mark 1:14
Jesus went into the synagogue and began to <i>teach</i> .	Mark 1:21
he <i>preached</i> the word to them.	Mark 2:2
he began to <i>teach</i> them.	Mark 2:13
<b><i>Evangelism – Informal Teaching – Systematic Instruction</i></b>	

MARK emphasizes ACTIVE MINISTRY of Jesus > NOT his SERMONS  
DETAILED Sermons found in Matthew, Luke, and John

ANOTHER VERSE where JESUS DEFINES His PURPOSE for Ministry:

v.17 Jesus: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

SEEKING the Sinful is VERY PURPOSE of Jesus' COMING / MINISTRY

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10

Jesus Joins the SIDE of SINNERS! > Wears their JERSEY – FIGHTS their Battle

Jesus EMPHASIZES the NEED of SINNERS > NOT their WORTH of Salvation

SHOCKING EXAMPLE 2:14 Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him

**Levi** may be Matthew, with Levi as 2<sup>nd</sup> name > Gospel Writer

NOT SURE Levi was BAD > Most would say GUILTY by ASSOCIATION

“toll collectors” > Levy FEE – Amount HE Determined – On TRANSPORTERS

Goods En Route between SYRIA and EGYPT > Strategic Thoroughfare  
 // SILK ROAD – Central Asians FEES Charged btwn Europe and Asia  
 or Contemporary Sons – Satellite Dish Hats – Orange Glowing Jedi-Swords

TC’s Hated by Jews: Servants of Rome, Defiled by Gentiles, Reeked of Corruption

IF in Galilee – MUST Give CUT of LOOT to Hated half-Edomite King HEROD

Talmud > Compares Tax Collectors to Murderers and Robbers

Such officials were detested everywhere and were classed with the vilest of men.  
 William Lane

When JEW became Tax Collector –

- Regarded as OUTCAST from SOCIETY
- DISQUALIFIED as JUDGE or WITNESS in COURT of Law
- EXCOMMUNICATED from SYNAGOGUE
- DISGRACE Even EXTENDED to their FAMILY

One WONDERS Whether JESUS ‘HITCHED His STAR’ to WRONG TEAM!

NOT only did LEVI Follow Jesus > HOSTED Party for Jesus and Whole Team

b. Pharisees > The POOPERS who joined THIS PARTY

v. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

*Pharisees* > Descendants of ‘HASIDIM’ (Faithful) – Devoted to GOD’S LAW  
 Keeping Law > PRIMARY Religious Duty of Jews  
 ‘Scribes’ – Law BINDING in Every Human Situation  
 LAW – 613 Commandments (248 Positive / 365 Negative)  
 ‘HEDGE’ of Other Related Laws – Protect Faithful from Falling into Sin

To be a Pharisee was to commit oneself to a life of radical separation, and to live in accordance with an enormous list of do's and don'ts. Sinclair Ferguson

Important Pharisaical DON'T > Buy Food from or Eat with NON-Pharisees  
 Never CAN BE SURE if 1) TITHE Paid? 2) CEREMONIAL Laws Followed?

***Be Sure! Buy Pharisee! Eat Pharisee! Be a Pharisee!***

Table fellowship with such people = Acceptance of them and their sins.  
 // Fundamentalists against Pre-Marital Sex > Could LEAD to DANCING

GREATEST Fear was RELIGIOUS DEFILEMENT > NOT Welfare of Unclean

***Pharisees fasted twice a week > MONDAY and THURSDAY***

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men...I fast twice a week...'  
Luke 18:11,12

The Simple World of the Pharisees – Holiness is What You Do  
 Behavior: Some ACTIVITIES are WRONG and should NOT BE DONE  
 Boundaries: Some PLACES Lead to SIN and should be AVOIDED  
 Bad: Some PEOPLE – Have Bad Behavior & Go to Bad Places > AVOID

c. Physician

v. 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.* I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

WHOLE Verse > RESPONSE to Complaint of Pharisees about Jesus' BEHAVIOR

"I am the LORD, who heals you."

Exodus 15:26

Modern-day Surgeon > SCRUBS Carefully before Surgery – Absolutely CLEAN!  
 WHY? To HELP and HEAL those who are DISEASED or DEFORMED

Jesus NOT Worried about CONTAMINATION from SINNERS  
More AFRAID FOR Sinners than AFRAID OF Them

Jesus came to CONVERT Sinners > NOT to COMPLIMENT the Self-Righteous

Jesus was WITH SINNERS because they MOST NEEDY of FORGIVENESS

God's Concern for HOLINESS > Led Him to Embrace Sin-Diseased People

If the Pharisees were really anxious to see men and women become holy, then their separation to God should have led them to a loving commitment to the people, to show them God's way. Sinclair Ferguson

Pharisees >> False Holiness – Criticizing Sinners, Not Caring for Them

He comes to us in our need; He makes a perfect diagnosis; He provides a final and complete cure; and He pays the bill! What a physician! Warren Wiersbe

## 2. Celebration – Mourning turned to Joy

### a. Joy of Receiving

v. 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

SPONTANEOUS Expression of JOY > Levi INVITED Friends to CELEBRATE!

“MANY Followed” > Sinners & TC's ALREADY among Jesus' Followers

THIS MEAL was not UNUSUAL > TYPICAL Example > Now TOO MUCH!!

IRONY > Even tho CROSS on Jesus' Near Horizon > MAN of GRACE & JOY!

v. 19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.

OT FASTING is an expression of MOURNING > SORROW before God

*celebrating with the groom* “while the groom is with them”

GROOM at Wedding Banquet > Special Relationship between God and Israel

For the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; *as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.* Isaiah 62:4-5

INAPPROPRIATE to FAST during the WEDDING FEAST

Jesus is both the CENTER and the CAUSE of DISCIPLES JOY

Joy > Knowing Absolutely UNWORTHY but being UNDENIABLY Transformed

G.R.A.C.E. > God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

F.A.I.T.H. > Forsaking All I Trust Him

b. Sorrow in Achieving....*or trying*

v. 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

LOOK at US > Good Religious People Trying so Hard > Jesus & Thieves PARTY!

CONFUSION & DISAPPOINTMENT is UNDERSTANDABLE: What Happened?

*Why don't your disciples fast?* > *Both* John’s disciples and Pharisees Did  
(John may have been in PRISON at this Point > Disciples FASTING for Release)

OT Law > Just ONE DAY of FASTING in Year > Day of ATONEMENT

On the tenth day of the seventh month *you must deny yourselves* and not do any work...because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you.

Leviticus 16:29-30

Typical of Pharisees > Zealous Desire to GO BEYOND the Letter of LAW  
God Asks ONE Day > Pharisees DEMAND 106!

Cultural Expectation > Jesus, Pious Religious Figure > Should be Fasting  
SHAME on Him for FAILING in this BASIC Duty of Religious Piety  
Jesus Found WRONG CROWD – Jesus Followed WRONG CUSTOMS

FASTING Accusation > Part of DISREGARD for ENTIRE Ceremonial Law

As soon as they left the *synagogue*, they went...to the home of Simon...Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. *The fever left her* Mark 1:29-31

Greatest Crime? Healing on SABBATH or healing MOTHER-IN-LAW!?

Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they *doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?*"  
Mark 2:24

Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples *live according to the tradition of the elders...*"  
Mark 7:5

Pharisees > God Kept Covenant with them IF they Kept the LAW

Man-Centered Faith: Salvation ULTIMATELY Depends on Man the Law-Keeper

Jesus: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence."  
Matthew 23:25

Legalism > Thinking WE ADD Something to our SALVATION

The Complex World of Jesus – Holiness comes from Knowing Him

Prohibitions No one spoke out More Strongly Against Sin than Jesus

Eye makes you sin – Cut it out!

Sin Not Just Action but Attitudes – Guilty when just THINK about Sinning

People Everyone is SINFUL – More you Know, More you are Guilty

RELIGIOUS are MORE GUILTY > HYPOCRISY is Intolerable to God

Even our best prayers could send us to hell.

Places Some are Inhabited by those who Oppose Him, but This is Father's World

Possibilities CONDEMNED Sin AND CHANGED Sinners > Made HOLY in Him

COMMON Among Christians > Think – We are SCORING POINTS with God!

Attending Church – Reading Bible – Saying Prayers – Being Kind – YEAH ME!!

Teaching Ethics – 10 Comm's – at Local Seminary > Recent Problem w/ Translator

“Our PRAYERS are SINFUL, Preaching is Sinful, Ministry is Full of SIN!”

SILENCE > “I misunderstood you, I thought you said SINFUL?” I DID!

Even our GOOD is NOT THAT Good > Best PRAYERS could send to HELL!

Deadly legalism—keeping the rules because one has to, or out of fear of rejection and punishment, or to get things from God leads to pride in keeping them on one hand or frustration at failure to keep them on the other hand. James Boice

Legalism TAKES AWAY > JOY and CONFIDENCE > Basis of Hope is YOU!

HONEST Appraisal > NOT PERFECT! – No Way too MEET God's Holy Standard

Look DEEP Into our SOUL > NOBODY HOME! > Just Sinner needing SAVIOR

WHY Levi and his Homies had RIP-ROARING Party! > JESUS was in the House!



### 3. New Creation – New Wine in New Wineskins

#### a. Compromise?

vs. 21,22 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."

New cloth NOT Preshrunk > Washing & Drying Garment > Cause it to Shrink

New wine needed Ferment > Pressure Fermenting in Closed Container > Burst

2 Illust. > New patch & New wine > Cannot FUSE with OLD

Gospel of GRACE and Load of LEGALISM > Cannot be HARMONIZED

‘Jesus and Pharisees’ > NOT Rock Group OR Political RUNNING-MATES

Not Just Another Jewish Prophet or Teacher > Fulfills & Finalizes Old Covenant

Far Exceeds greatness of Old Covenant with GLORY of New Covenant

Jesus brings JOY Not Mourning / LIBERTY Not Legalism / GRACE Not Law

Out in WILDERNESS – JESUS was doing NEW THING...

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and  
streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19

The new disrupts the old and bursts its mold.

William Lane

The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. *And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.* No one else dared join them, even though they were *highly regarded by the people.* Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.

*Crowds gathered* also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and *all of them were healed*. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were *filled with jealousy*. They arrested the apostles and *put them in the public jail*.

Acts 5:12-18

ONE of Several EXAMPLES from Acts > CHURCH Outgrew Jewish Wineskins

Jewish Ceremonialism cannot CONTAIN Global Christianity

Gospel FULFILLED OT Promises BUT Jewish Leaders REFUSED to Follow Him

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Romans 10:4

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 1:20

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1:11

b. Cross v. 20

v. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

*the groom will be taken away* > Language POINTS HAUNTINGLY to CROSS

By oppression and judgment he was *taken away*.

Isaiah 53:8

PRESENCE of Bridegroom with Church is UNUSUAL Event for CHURCH

Things would Change in the Future when the Groom is TAKEN AWAY

THAT DAY > Day of Atonement in OT > GOOD FRIDAY in NT?

Honor Faithful Catholics > IDENTIFY with His Sufferings – FAST on Friday

NORMATIVE Situation is Post-Pentecost Church History > Spirit of Risen Lord

Time of BRIDEGROOM > Passing of OLD, Coming of NEW Reign of Messiah

Legalism always seems to have one thing in common: it denies that Christ is sufficient for salvation; some additional element of self-effort, merit or faithfulness on our part is necessary.  
John Samson

Only People HE Cannot Heal – Those who refuse to ADMIT they NEED Him

### c. Calling

v. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

CALL of Tax Collector: ANXIETY Jesus' Followers > ANGER to His Enemies

*Levi got up and followed him // Peter & 3 others in chapter 1*

LEAVES Ledgers and Account Books – Piles of Money – Follow New Master

Jesus had not come to call scribes who considered themselves to be righteous for the Kingdom of God, but outcasts who knew their need to be made whole.

William Lane

Mark Summarizes PROCESS > END of Process of COUNTING Cost

RADICAL Nature of CALL > ABRUPT – DEMANDING – EXCLUSIVE

Tax Collector INVITED into INTIMATE CIRCLE of Jesus' APOSTLES

How do WE Extend CALL of Jesus Today? – applic. of Wine & Wineskins?

Church Leaders/Planters look for SILVER BULLET to Plant and Grow Church

Embrace LATEST Techniques: *Purpose-Driven, Seeker-Sensitive, Multiplication High-Tech, High-Touch, with High-Prices, and High-Expectations*

Great REVIVAL of God – Gifted LEADER – Big CROWDS – Bigger BUILDING  
 Leader LEAVES – Crowds DWINDLE – MORTGAGE Remains

Whenever the fresh life of the Spirit breathes in the church, the same problem arises, as the church seeks for appropriate forms in which to contain and express the new life without losing continuity with the old. R. Allan Cole

God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. *For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.* I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a *demonstration of the Spirit's power*, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on *God's power*. 1 Corinthians 1:27-2:5

ONLY Silver BULLET I've seen in 30 yrs Ministry: Jesus Christ Crucified  
 And WISDOM and POWER of Holy Spirit to FOLLOW His Unique Leading

What WORKS in One Place > NOT Guaranteed to WORK in ANOTHER  
 God CONFOUNDS our Efforts > Resists PROUD > Only HE Can WORK!

PIONEERS often MISUNDERSTOOD by ESTABLISHMENT

Martin Luther – John Wesley – John Bunyan – John Knox – William Carey

Gladys Aylward – Florence Nightingale – Lottie Moon >> LATER HONORED

Is our Vision?....

1. Central to the Ministry of Jesus and Apostles
2. Clearly taught in Scriptures
3. Confirmed by Examples from Church History
4. Connecting with Needs of People Today

In the MIDST of our FOOD FIGHTS...Let us REMEMBER...

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness,  
peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17

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Mark 2:13-22

13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. 15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" 19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. 21 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins."