

- I. Who is this Jesus?
  - a. Has the AUTHORITY of God
  - b. Has COMPASSION that has never been seen
- II. The Servant's Offers
  - a. **True Healing** (vs 1-12)
    - i. Faith in action (vs 1-5)
      - 1. Showed up expecting the miracle of physical healing.
      - 2. Weren't discouraged by the crowd
        - a. Couldn't get in so they remodeled someone else's house!
        - b. Nothing got in the way of the thing that was important to them.
    - ii. **Jesus addressed the deeper issue; SIN.** (vs 5-10)
      - 1. Rightly questioned on the charge of blasphemy. Only God could forgive sins.
      - 2. Jesus begins to further build the case for Who He Is.
    - iii. Physical Healing points them to Spiritual Healing (vs 11-12)
      - 1. Vs 8, It is easier to say, "your sins are forgiven" because that can't be proven wrong.
      - 2. "If they were physically healed when He spoke, maybe they were forgiven when He spoke."
    - iv. Who is this Jesus?
      - 1. **Offers Forgiveness**
        - a. Psalm 103 says God forgives
      - 2. **Perceives Thoughts**
        - a. Psalm 139
      - 3. **Calls Himself the Son of Man**
        - a. Daniel 7:13
      - 4. Forgives sins
        - a. Isaiah 53:6-12
      - 5. He is the one the OT prophesied about!
      - 6. They missed it because they had already chosen who they thought Jesus was.
  - b. **Real Fellowship** (vs 13-17)
    - i. Continued traveling around to preach
    - ii. Personal Invitation
      - 1. Jesus Himself invited Levi. Not to coffee, not simple conversation, but to BE A DISCIPLE!
        - a. Levi obeyed
        - b. Accepting Jesus results in immediate True Fellowship and intimacy.
    - iii. Pharisees question
      - 1. Vs 16 "Why does he eat and sit with tax collectors and sinners?"
    - iv. **Jesus addresses the deeper issue; PRIDE.**
      - 1. Here He is "reclining" with sinners! vs 15
        - a. Not just talking but "reclining"!
        - b. Vs 17, self-righteous people take note; judgmental people listen carefully; prideful and arrogant personalities here is the truth!
          - i. Who is Eligible for Forgiveness?
            - 1. The prerequisite for True Healing and True Fellowship is not status, not societal value, not wealth, not knowledge, not the law. It is recognizing the sickness, recognizing the one who can fix it, and turning to that person.
            - 2. The story is told of two ducks and a frog who lived happily together in a farm pond. The best of friends, the three would amuse themselves and play together in their waterhole. When

the hot summer days came, however, the pond began to dry up, and soon it was evident they would have to move. This was no problem for the ducks, who could easily fly to another pond. But the frog was stuck. So it was decided that they would put a stick in the bill of each duck that the frog could hang onto with his mouth as they flew to another pond. The plan worked well--so well, in fact, that as they were flying along a farmer looked up in admiration and mused, "Well, isn't that a clever idea! I wonder who thought of it?" The frog said, "I did..."

v. Who is this Jesus?

**1. Friend of sinners**

c. **Complete Change** (vs 18-22)

i. Another question from the Pharisees!

1. Vs 18, Why don't your disciples fast?

ii. **Jesus addresses the deeper issue: TRADITIONS**

1. Speaks to the 2 meanings of fasting:

a. Grief

i. Associated with mourning

ii. Insulting to fast (mourn) at a celebration of a new relationship

iii. Jesus implies that He is the bridegroom and because He is now present, there should be no mourning. It should be a celebration!

1. John 3:29 John the Baptist calls Jesus the bridegroom

2. No longer a burden of the law

a. Matthew 23:4

iv. Also speaks of His future departure

b. Merit

i. "Fix" relationship with God

1. Fasting was supposed to be done with humility, not paraded around. (Matthew 6)

ii. Out with the Old (Law), in with the New (Jesus)

iii. Jesus arrival wasn't a patch into the old garment of the law. It wasn't a new wine encapsulated in an old wineskin. Jesus' arrival, His ministry, His authority, was a complete change from the old, burdensome restrictions of the law. Nothing can be made new by patching it, Jesus is the new and only Jesus can make something new!

1. "New wine is for fresh wineskins." Verse 22

2. Jesus brings complete, new righteousness. Not an old robe of righteousness with many holes that He would patch. But a new robe of righteousness in which He would put a new man. (New wine in new wineskin) -J. Vernon McGee

iii. Who is this Jesus?

**1. The fulfillment of righteousness**

a. "Righteousness of God through faith Jesus Christ" Romans 3:22

b. "in Him we might become the righteousness of God" 2 Corinthians 5:21

d. **Total Freedom** (vs 2:23-3:6)

i. Pharisee question

1. Vs 24, Why are they breaking the Sabbath?

2. Law of Moses said no work on the Sabbath. However, over time the restrictions kept piling up. Man-made rules became more important than God's Word.

3. Deuteronomy 23 says that you CAN eat a neighbor's grain if hungry and no tool is used.

ii. **Jesus addresses the deeper issue: CONDEMNATION**

1. Jesus answers using scriptural examples. Mark only references David because the Romans wouldn't have cared about the Jewish priests or prophets that Jesus mentioned in Matthew.
  - a. His point was to show that God desires His people's needs to be met more than He desires the religious tradition that the Pharisees clung to so tightly.
  - b. Vs 27-28 Jesus declares that He is Lord and that compassion and love for God's people outweighs man's rules.
2. Pharisees watching carefully as Jesus enters the synagogue.
  - a. Jesus asks, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?"
    - i. Basically, every day is a great day and another opportunity to show the love of God!
    - ii. The law had created legalistic followers whose eyes were blind to the Love of God in action. Jesus is here to bring the new and give freedom from the condemnation of the law.
      1. Romans 8:1-2, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

iii. Who is this Jesus?

**1. Provider of Freedom**

- III. This Jesus is the Same Today!
- a. You can find True Healing in Jesus
  - b. You can have Real Fellowship through Jesus
    - i. With God
    - ii. With Others
  - c. You can have Complete Change in Jesus
    - i. New Creation
  - d. You can have Total Freedom in Jesus
    - i. "No longer a slave to sin"