

The background is a piece of aged, textured paper with a mottled, light brown and beige color scheme. The paper has a rough, deckled edge. A crown of thorns, made of dark brown, spiky branches, is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. The text is overlaid on the paper.

*Faith, Power
and Opposition*

2
Mark
3

Day

1

1. As you sit down to read or listen to Mark 2 and 3 please stop for a minute to pray. Ask God to open your heart to hear from him. We do not want to study to merely get knowledge but to gain wisdom. Wisdom has been defined as the right use or exercise of knowledge. The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 111:10 the reverential awe of our God is the beginning of wisdom.
2. Jesus returns to Capernaum. How was he received?
3. What was the problem we read about in Mark 2:2-5?
4. Do you think these friends were disappointed?
What do you do when you are met with obstacles bringing your friends to Jesus?

I had planned to invite a neighbor to attend Easter services with us. We have been praying for him for several months but Covid has kept him isolated from any crowds. He is finally getting out again now, but when we invited him, he told us that he is going to see family and will not be back for several weeks. I was disappointed at first but then I thought about inviting him to attend "At The Movies" with us. That might work out better anyway.

5. What did these men do that might have seemed to some like a crazy plan?
I really wonder what the people inside were thinking as pieces of ceiling started dropping on their heads. Do you think it distracted Jesus or was he smiling to himself at the thought of their love and their faith?
6. As you read verse 5 were you surprised to see the faith of this man and his friends was significant in the forgiveness and healing this man was about to enjoy?
7. Matthew 10:42 "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Even the smallest act of kindness is noticed by God. A child cannot repay most acts of kindness. It is simply done out of love and concern. Jesus says he notices.
We are made for community. How are you serving within your community to help others find Jesus?
What act of kindness might you do today in Jesus name?

Day

2

8. Mark 2:6-12 describes another group that were there that day. The religious leaders that were in the room were hearing and seeing the same events. What did Jesus say that made them question him? Why did they see this as a problem?
9. Jesus answered their question in verse 10. He explained his reason for the words he chose. What was his reason?
10. Sometime later that day Jesus went out to teach by the Sea of Galilee and a large crowd gathered. Who did Jesus' meet as he passed by the tax collectors booth? Read Matthew 9:9 to go along with this event.
11. Jesus went home with the tax collector who had invited many of his friends to come enjoy a meal together. The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with people they wanted nothing to do with. They were appalled. What did Jesus tell them to help them understand his mission?

12. Jesus is constantly answering questions. But remember he has come to teach and preach so he really does not mind legitimate questions. In verses 18-22 we see Jesus is questioned about fasting. Who did they reference when questioning Jesus about fasting?
13. Since we seldom patch our clothes today or pour wine into wineskins these examples take a bit of research. Do you ever find yourself reading along and thinking, Wait!! What???
Why is Jesus talking about these things?
Many people did patch their clothes back then. They understood the importance of using a patch of material that had already been washed several times and was thoroughly shrunk. They understood using a wineskin that would stretch as the wine aged. And no one at a wedding fasts when the bridegroom is present, but they rejoice and celebrate with him. In verse 20, we see Jesus predicting his death. He is not referring to a groom who leaves on his honeymoon, there is no reason to fast over that. What does Jesus say will happen to the bridegroom?
14. Read Mark 2:23-28, Jesus and his disciples are walking along the road from one location to another. The Pharisees are legalists, everything must be done to the letter of the law. They pride themselves on making sure others perceive them this way. As they were walking along the way some of Jesus followers picked a few stalks of grain to snack on. Did you notice what day of the week it was?
15. The Pharisees had developed a system of 613 laws, 365 negative commands and 248 positive laws... By the time Christ came it had produced a heartless, cold, and arrogant brand of righteousness. What did they find fault with this day?
16. Read verses 27 and 28, what truth did Jesus try to help them see?

Day

3

17. Now let's look at Mark 3. Where do we find Jesus?
18. According to verse 1 who does Jesus meet when he arrives that day?
19. Read verses 1-6, who do you believe it is referring to when it said, "they were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus."
20. Jesus did not come to hide out and do his work in secret. He told the man to stand up in front of everyone. I am quite sure the people present thought they knew what was about to happen. To their surprise Jesus posed a question. What was his question?
21. It seems to be a simple enough question, why do you believe they did not answer him? Was it because they did not know the answer or something much more sinister?
22. After this encounter with Jesus, we see the Pharisees team up together with the Herodians. This is a very strange alliance. Do a bit of research and write down some information on these two groups.

Pharisees

Herodians

23. There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." The Pharisees and the Herodians were not friends before this but now they have a common interest. What is their shared, common interest?

Day

4

24. Jesus went down to the lake with his disciples and put out in a small boat because the crowd was so great, they were pressing in all around him. Many came with sickness and impure spirits, what did Jesus do for them?
25. Mark 3:13-19, we see a list of those who would make up Jesus inner circle of followers. List them below.
- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| a. | e. | i. |
| b. | f. | j. |
| c. | g. | k. |
| d. | h. | l. |
26. Now let's look at Mark 3:20-35, Jesus is in a house, and once again a large crowd has gathered. How crowded does the text tell us it was in the house that day?
27. There a couple of ways to look at Mark 3:21, some translations say "family" some say "friends" heard about this physically dangerous situation. They may have come to help him get away to be refreshed or if may be that they really do not understand Jesus ministry yet. You would think Jesus could count on his family for support, or at the very least a bit of understanding. What do you believe his family/friends wanted him to do?
28. Have you ever felt misunderstood and abandoned by some family members? How did you handle it? We cannot rely solely on our family to support us. They do not always understand what God is calling us to do.
29. What did the religious leaders say about Jesus?
30. Jesus uses a parable to try to help those present understand the foolishness of a kingdom divided. What did Jesus say would happen to a house is divided?
31. Who is Jesus referring to in verse 27? What does it take to bind up a strong man?
32. Mark 3:28-35 speak to the seriousness of this sin. It is often referred to as the unpardonable sin. What is this sin?
- Blasphemy is defined by Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary as: an injury offered to God, by denying that which is due and belonging to him or attributing to him that which is not agreeable to his nature.
33. What had they said about Jesus that is considered a sin with no forgiveness available? Read Mark 3:30 and then write it in your own words.
34. Have you ever feared your sin was beyond forgiveness? Read Mark 3:28 again, what does it say about every other sin under the sun?

Day

5

35. The last thing we want to look at in this chapter is verses 31-35. Jesus' mother and brothers had arrived and were wanting to see him. Someone told Jesus that his mother and brothers were outside looking for him. What was Jesus' response?

- 
36. Why do you believe he responded this way? Did he not love his own family?
 37. Notice what he says in verse 35, how does Jesus feel about anyone who is willing and obedient doing God's will? How great is his love for them?
 38. Take a few minutes and think back over these two chapters, which of God's character qualities have you seen as you studied these chapters?
 39. Have you seen anything in these two chapters that was a new revelation and a comfort to your soul?
 40. How will you share something about Jesus with someone else this week? Perhaps with your family over the dinner table or a friend at coffee. Remember we are taking in truth so that we will have something to share with others. Find some fun ways to share with others then talk about it in your small group.

