

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



More than Obedience Mark 2:12-22

Main Idea

Christianity is about more than obedience; it's about a relationship where Jesus is everything.

Overview

Jesus Desires a Relationship not just Obedience

- Jesus continues to focus on calling his disciples through teaching (v. 13-14)
- Jesus says "Follow me"
 - The OT prophets said "Follow God" yet Jesus says "Follow me"
 - Jesus is making a divine claim
 - Jesus, fully human and fully God, stands in the gap between sinful man and a holy God and says, "Follow me"
- Jesus knows our created purpose is a relationship with God not just to follow his rules (Gn. 1-3)
 - Just following the rules of God can actually isolate you from God
 - It is critical to realize external obedience to rules of God does not equate to a relationship with God
 - Religion says "I obey therefore I'm accepted" but the gospel says "I'm accepted therefore I obey"

Jesus Only has a Relationship with Sinners not the Self-Righteous

- Jesus tells just like only the sick need a doctor, only the sinful need a savior (v. 17)
- Jesus is not saying some are righteous; he is talking about the self-righteous
 - Scripture diagnoses everyone as sinful (Rm. 3; Ps. 15; Is. 53:6; 64:6)
 - Sin is not just breaking the rules of God, but setting yourself up as King & Judge
 - It's okay to not be okay as long as you don't stay that way
- Only talk about sin under the shadow of the cross
 - If you miss the cross, you miss grace; if you miss grace you miss the gospel; if you miss the gospel you miss everything
 - "For ever one look at sin take 10 at the cross"

Jesus is Everything not Just Something

- Jesus responds to the Pharisee's question with three parables: wedding, cloth patch, wineskins
- Jesus says his disciples cannot fast for the same reason a bride cannot fast on her wedding day: it is a time for feasting not fasting, celebration not mourning
 - In this reference to himself as the bridegroom, Jesus is making a staggering claim. If you were to read the entire Old Testament, only God, Yahweh is called the bridegroom (Is. 54:4-8; 61:10; 62:5)

- Jesus is pointing us forward to another great wedding feast where all things are back to the way they are supposed to be (Rv. 19:7,9)
- The way of life introduced by Jesus involves a radical break with the common religious practices of the day; he has not come to just patch things up; his teachings cannot be contained within an old system, within the Mosaic law
 - Jesus cannot simply be added on to the religion of the day; business as usual, plus a little Jesus will not work. He is all together different! He can't be an add-on

Questions

1. In these verses (Mk. 2:13-22) we see the Pharisees trying to add rules to the Scriptures. What are some rules you have heard people, even self-professing Christians, add to Christianity? Why are these a problem?
2. John Calvin says the default mode of our heart is religion. Do you think that is an accurate statement, why or why not? How can we protect our hearts from drifting into this mode?
3. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "Follow me"?
4. "Religion produces pride or despair. The gospel should produce a humble confidence." Why do you agree or disagree with this statement?
5. In verse 17, Jesus says he comes to call sinners not the righteous? Does this mean some people are righteous and don't need to be saved? Explain.
6. Christianity claims that we are all sinners. Some think this is an arrogant claim, is it?
7. Why do we so often want to use Jesus as a 'patch' or pour him into an 'old wineskin'? What is the danger in treating Jesus this way?
8. What significance is there in Jesus referring to himself as the bridegroom? How does this give us hope?