

Title: ENCOUNTERING NEW WINE
Text: MARK 2:13-22

Teacher: TOM NELSON

Mark's Gospel Continues...

Who is this Rabbi?

His message is radical!

His authority is unmatched!

His methods are scandalous!

A Scandalous Grace (Mark 2:13-17)

A scandalous disciple

Many scandalous friendships

The Great Physician

A Remarkable Joy (Mark 2:18-22)

Fasting or feasting?

New wine and new wineskins

Looking in the Mirror

- 1) Do we grasp our desperate need for Jesus?
- 2) Are we experiencing the great joy of a new life?
- 3) How are we indwelling a scandalous grace?

"Where sin increased, grace increased all the more." (Romans 5:20)

CONVERSATION STARTER

- When was the last time you went to a fun party? Who was there and what were you celebrating? How do celebrations bring people together?
- Read Mark 2:13-17. Why might have Jesus' calling of Levi been surprising? Why do you think the scribes and Pharisees were concerned that Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners? What mindset was Jesus exposing when He said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"? What does the metaphor of the doctor teach us about why Jesus came?
- Read Mark 2:18-22. Who do you think the group of people were who asked Jesus the question about fasting? What are the metaphors that Jesus uses to answer this question? What is the common thread between them all? How might these metaphors bring explanation to Jesus' ministry up to this point in Mark?
- Read the excerpt below. What might Piper mean when he says that the gospel is not a help-wanted ad? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? What do you think of Piper's distinction between Jesus' teaching being a job description and medical advice? How would you distinguish between these two?
- How can we learn to recognize our own sickness? What are ways that we attempt to treat our own sickness by being our own doctor? How does seeing ourselves as sick help us to invite others into our community? How can we as a community remove barriers that keep others from experiencing Jesus?

EXCERPT FROM: *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals*

BY: John Piper

What is God looking for in the world? Assistants? No. The gospel is not a help-wanted ad. It is a help-available ad...The difference between Uncle Sam and Jesus Christ is that Uncle Sam won't enlist you in his service unless you are healthy and Jesus won't enlist you in his service unless you are sick. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). Christianity is fundamentally convalescence. Patients do not serve their physicians. They trust them for good prescriptions. The Sermon on the Mount is our doctor's medical advice, not our employer's job description.

But even that analogy doesn't get it quite right. Even trusting our doctor to tell us wise and healing things to do may leave us trying to do them in our own strength. God is not only the doctor who prescribes. He is the nurse who lifts up our powerless head and puts the spoon in our mouth (or who hangs the bag of intravenous medicine). And He is the medicine.