



## Mark: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

### Chapter #2 – Authority That Forgives, Calls, and Redefines

#### Main Idea

Mark 2 continues the Gospel's fast pace by focusing on Jesus' authority and how it confronts human expectations, religious systems, and personal pride. Through a series of encounters, Jesus reveals that His authority extends beyond healing into forgiveness, calling sinners, and redefining long-held traditions. The chapter highlights growing tension between Jesus and the religious leaders as His words and actions challenge their understanding of God's law and grace. Jesus does not merely interpret the law as He stands above it as its fulfillment. Mark 2 invites us to consider how Jesus' authority reaches into every area of life, calling people to faith, repentance, and a transformed understanding of righteousness rooted in mercy rather than legalism.

#### Chapter Outline

Provided below are the main topics addressed in this chapter:

- Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man (verses 1 through 12)
- Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew) the Tax Collector (verses 13 through 17)
- Questions About Fasting (verses 18 through 22)
- Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath (verses 23 through 28)

#### Questions for Consideration

1. In Jesus forgiving and healing the paralyzed man (verses 1 through 12), why does He address forgiveness before healing, and what does this reveal about His authority?
2. What does Jesus' calling of Levi teach us about grace and who Jesus invites to follow Him?
3. What do the illustrations of new wine and wineskins teach about the nature of Jesus' ministry?
4. Why did Jesus' actions regarding the Sabbath provoke opposition from religious leaders?
5. How should Jesus being 'Lord of the Sabbath' shape our understanding of rest and obedience? Think of specific examples in your life and what you and your family do on Sundays.



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## Mark 2 (NIV)

### Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

<sup>1</sup> A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

### Jesus Calls Levi and Eats with Sinners

<sup>13</sup> Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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?"

<sup>17</sup> 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."

### Jesus Questioned About Fasting

<sup>18</sup> 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?"

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

<sup>21</sup> "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. <sup>22</sup> And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

### Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

<sup>23</sup> One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup> The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

<sup>25</sup> He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup> In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

