

# WILL YOU FOLLOW THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS?

Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ . Mark 2:1-3:6

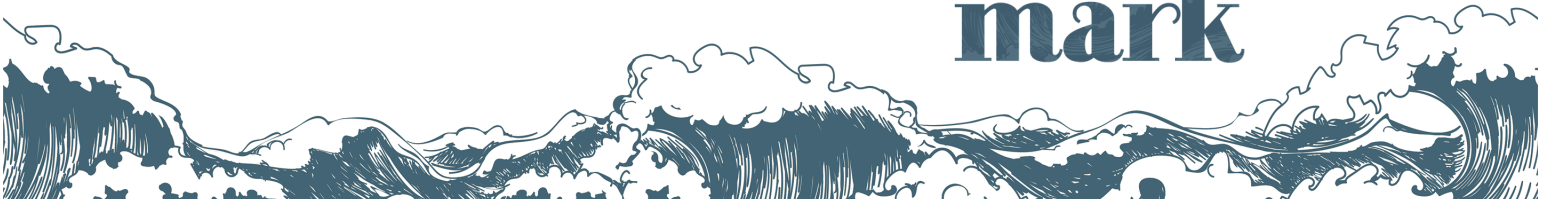
Jesus came to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 2:13-17

<sup>[13]</sup> He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>[14]</sup> And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. <sup>[15]</sup> And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>[16]</sup> And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>[17]</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 3:1-6

<sup>[1]</sup> Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. <sup>[2]</sup> And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>[3]</sup> And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." <sup>[4]</sup> And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>[5]</sup> And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>[6]</sup> The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

mark



## **Mark 2**

<sup>[1]</sup> And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>[2]</sup> And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>[3]</sup> And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>[4]</sup> And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. <sup>[5]</sup> And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>[6]</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>[7]</sup> "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>[8]</sup> And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? <sup>[9]</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk?' <sup>[10]</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—<sup>[11]</sup> "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." <sup>[12]</sup> And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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<sup>[15]</sup> And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>[16]</sup> And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>[17]</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

<sup>[18]</sup> Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>[19]</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>[20]</sup> The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. <sup>[21]</sup> No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. <sup>[22]</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

<sup>[23]</sup> One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>[24]</sup> And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" <sup>[25]</sup> And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: <sup>[26]</sup> how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" <sup>[27]</sup> And 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."

## **Mark 3:1–12**

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<sup>[7]</sup> Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea <sup>[8]</sup> and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. <sup>[9]</sup> And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, <sup>[10]</sup> for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. <sup>[11]</sup> And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." <sup>[12]</sup> And he strictly ordered them not to make him known. (ESV)

# Will You Follow the Authority of Jesus?

January 9, 2022



**Open:** What factors led you to decide to follow Jesus?

**Read & Discuss:** Mark 2:13-17

1. Given his background, what do you imagine might have been going on in the heart and mind of Levi as he heard and responded to Jesus' call (v. 14)? What lessons are there in Levi's example for us today as we consider our own decision to follow Jesus?
2. In this passage, what differences are implied between the "tax collectors and sinners" and the "scribes of the Pharisees"? What can we learn from the example of each group?
3. What stands out to you from this account about Jesus' goals and purpose? How might you use this passage to encourage someone who doubts that Jesus would be interested in them?
4. How would you paraphrase Jesus' response in verse 17? What might be some ways that we as believers can fall into the error of the Pharisees as seen here? How can we cultivate a heart like Jesus demonstrates in this passage toward "those who are sick" (v. 17)?

**Read & Discuss:** Mark 3:1-6

5. What does it mean that the Pharisees' hearts were hard toward Jesus (v. 5)? What are some areas in which our hearts might grow hard today? How do we protect our hearts from developing hard-heartedness?
6. The Pharisees were watching for an opportunity to accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath law by healing a man (v. 2). What does Jesus' response in verses 3-4 tell us about how we should understand and apply God's Law?
7. What different emotions do you see ascribed to Jesus or expressed by Jesus in this account? Given this, how might you describe Jesus' heart toward mankind?

**Apply:** What stands out to you about Jesus in this passage? How is God leading you to respond?

**Pray:** Ask God to work in us so we might have the heart of Christ toward the sick and the broken, towards those who are outsiders and those who are sinners.

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