

DISCUSSION IDEAS

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

Mark 2:1–3:6

August 30th, 2015

Page 1 of 2

Have you heard someone say that Jesus was truly a good man, even a prophet, but was not God?

Let's look at Jesus' own answer to that as recounted in Mark.

♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE – JESUS' INTENTION AT CAPERNAUM.

First, let's review what Jesus was teaching (Mark 1:14-15).

We have been taught mis-conceptions about the terms "Kingdom of God" and "Gospel" as they are used in the context of Jesus' ministry.

The "Kingdom of God" was "at hand".

How was Jesus' the answer to the old promises to Israel?

What was the significance of His being the Messiah?

What was this "Kingdom"? (Hint: not Christianity.)

Knowing that He had not yet revealed the need for His death and resurrection, what was this "Gospel"? (Hint: not the Gospel of salvation which we preach today.) The word "gospel" literally means "good announcement" or "good news".

As you read Mark 2:1-12 look for the answers to these questions:

- What was the basis of His preaching (v.2)? (Jesus was not just giving out opinions.)
- The paralytic man's friends bring him to Jesus – the hard way! What did they want? Why did Jesus answer the way He did in verse 5? (Verse 6 gives an idea of who were in the crowd.)
- How valid were the questions asked in verses 6-7? Compare Leviticus 24:10-16.
- In answering, what did Jesus make very clear (note verse 10)?

♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO – JESUS' AUTHORITY, AND HIS DEITY.

How does this passage alone answer any question about Jesus' deity?

As you read through Mark, remember that Jesus had to know that He must be rejected as Messiah, and that He had to die to atone for sin.

How did He manipulate and goad the reactions of the Jewish leaders to reveal their attitudes and to assure that His rejection and death would be the result?

Read Mark 2:13-17 and think about why Jesus specifically chose this setting.

What was He making clear?

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Page 2 of 2

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE – JESUS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAW OF MOSES.**

The Pharisees thought that obedience to the Law was the answer to eternal life. They were out to reform the Jewish beliefs and lives.

As you read both Mark 2:18-22 and then Mark 2:23-3:6, how does Jesus show His authority even over the Law?

How did His actions prove His authority and deity?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT FOUR – YANKIN' THE CHAIN.**

It was a set-up.

What were the leaders doing on that Sabbath?

Jesus knows, and what does He say to them?

Why was He so angry at them?

How did His actions actually prove His identity?

How do the leaders' actions show blindness of heart?

How did their response actually serve to further God's purpose?

♦ **REFLECTION AND PERSONAL STUDY:**

Traditional teaching:

As you study the Word yourself, how do you deal with what you have been taught in the past?

Do you study the Word for yourself?

When the context of Scripture seems to disagree with the explanation of some Bible Commentary, how do you handle that?

Think about the persistent attitude, among all of us, that we want to hang on to that which we learned first.

How easy is it for us to reject clear evidence if it goes against what we feel is right?

What resources do you have?

How do you know what to believe?

(Personally I love the idea of "removing the barnacles which have become attached to God's Word".)

Our relationship with this evil world:

How does engagement with the world fit God's purpose for us?

How does separation from the world hurt God's purpose for us?

Consider Jesus words in John 8:23; yet He ate with "sinners"!

Spend some time on John 15:18-27 and 17:13-21.