

**Series "The God Who Serves"**  
**"Religion Versus Relationship"**  
**Mark 2:18-22**  
**Study-8**

**Mark 2:1-3:6 – A Section That Covers 5 Direct Conflicts With The Religious Leaders.**

- 1. Mark 2:1-12** – Conflict With The Religious Over The Authority To Forgive Sins.
- 2. Mark 2:13-17** – Conflict With Religious Over Jesus Befriending Sinners.
- 3. Mark 2:18-22** – Conflict With The Religious Over Fasting.
- 4. Mark 2:23-28** – Conflict With The Religious Over The Sabbath.
- 5. Mark 3:1-6** – Conflict With The Religious Over Healing On The Sabbath.

**The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Heart and Soul of Christianity and is Absolutely Unique.**

**This discourse is recorded in all 3 of the Synoptic Gospels: Matt 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "The Gospel Message Is Christianity, It Is Both Distinctive, And Exclusive, It Cannot Be Mixed With Any Religion Or Ism."

- 1. Verses 18-20 – Relationship With God; Feast Or Funeral:**
- 2. Verses 21-22 – Christianity; Distinctive And Exclusive:**

**1. Verses 18-20 – Relationship With God; Feast Or Funeral:**

Mark 2:18

"And John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;" – The context is that Jesus has just chosen Matthew as His disciple. He was a "Tax Collector"

Contrast A Funeral Or A Feast: John The Baptist's Disciples – "And John's disciples were fasting" – Matthew 3:1-4

Mark 1:14

Acts 19:1-6

Contrast A Funeral Or A Feast: Pharisees – "and the Pharisees", Matthew 6:16-18

Lev 16:29-31

Lev. 23:27

Many occasions in the Old Testament where people fasted voluntarily – always connected with sorrowful, heart-breaking prayer.

Isaiah 58:3-5

Empty ritual is always the enemy of true godliness.

Matthew 9:14

This Question Is With Severe Criticism: "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" Why is Jesus Running So Contrary To True Current Religion?

Mark 2:19

"While the bridegroom" – Jesus is the bridegroom, (Matt 25) John 3:29

"the attendants of the bridegroom" – (guests of the bridegroom, literally "children of the bride's chamber") – were the disciples of Jesus.

Inappropriate For Attendants Of The Groom To Fast: "do not fast, do they?" – So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

Jesus' disciples were the attendants but we today are the Bride of Christ. Eph. 5:32; We have the Spirit of God in us – Romans 8:9

What Jesus is saying is that as Christians, we should have a feast in our relationship with Him, not a funeral.

Mark 2:20

"taken away" – Literally "violently taken away", Isaiah 53:8

Jesus has not been taken away from us, He is always with us.

## **2. Verses 21-22 – Christianity; Distinctive And Exclusive:**

Mark 2:21

Luke 5:36

parable: The word "Parable" is made up of two words, "Para"– alongside, "ballo"– to throw or cast; "To cast alongside"

Verse 21 – Jesus Did Not Come To Patch But Replace.

“unshrunk cloth” (Spiritual Truth) – The new cloth represents a new relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. It was all grace and not performance.

“on an old garment;” – (Natural Truth) Material that has been washed, been used, worn.

“old garment” – (Spiritual Truth) This represents Apostate Judaism's rituals and ceremonies are a worn out old garment

The newness of the fabric had power within to destroy all things that attempt to contain it.

That Jesus came to bring a new garment, man needs nothing less than a new garment, not scraps or patches.

Salvation is not a partial patching up of one's life; it is a whole new robe of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21)

Verse 22 – Jesus Gives New Life With New Capacity: Mark 2:22

“new wine” – (Natural Truth) – “Fresh grape juice that would ferment”

(Spiritual Truth) The new truth, new revelation in new relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Wine speaks of joy.

“old wineskins” (Spiritual Truth) – This represents religion, such as Judaism that as good as it was it now was like an old, worn out goat skin.

“fresh wineskins” (Spiritual Truth) – The person that is born again has new life by faith in Jesus Christ. We have expanding joy in our hearts that cannot be restrained by the old structure.

“The Christian life is not a mixing of the old and the new; rather, it is a fulfillment of the old in the new.”

Don't think you can add Jesus to your religion, you can't; it's a total replacement.

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

Luke 5:39

"The old is good enough."; "Ignorance and stubbornness are the twins of religion. Don't know, don't want to change!"

1 Corinthians 4:20

**Application:**

1. The Gospel Message Is Christianity; It Is Both Distinctive, And Exclusive; It Cannot Be Mixed With Any Religion Or Ism.
2. How Would Others Describe My Relationship With God? Would It Be A Feast, Or A Funeral?
3. Jesus Did Not Come To Patch Up Our Lives But To Replace.
4. Like Jesus, We Must Vigorously Oppose Traditions, And Non-Biblical Mandates That Violate Relationships.