

## Heart for Jesus



MEMORY VERSE: “For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.”  
John 1:17

### DAY 1

### MARK 2:13-17 — Controversy about Eating with Sinners

1. Read verse 13. What do you think it was like to listen to Jesus teach?
2. What did Jesus say to Levi? How did Levi respond? v. 14  
(Levi is another name for Matthew.)
3. Read verses 15-17. Who did Matthew invite to dinner? In your own words, what was Jesus’ response to the Pharisees?
4. What does this tell us about who God chooses? What does it tell us about who we should share Jesus with?

### DAY 2

### MARK 2:18-22 — Controversy about Fasting

5. Review fasting in the Mark Dictionary. The Pharisees fasted twice a week to show how holy they were. Jesus uses an illustration to explain to them why His disciples are not fasting. Who is the bridegroom? What does verse 20 mean?

6. What do you learn from the two parables recorded in verses 21-22? What do they tell us about the gospel and life of following Jesus?

### **DAY 3**    MARK 2:23-28 — Controversy about Working on the Sabbath

7. Define Sabbath. Refer to the Mark Dictionary and Exodus 34:21.

8. What is the appropriate way to view the Sabbath according to Jesus? v. 27

9. Read verse 28. What does it mean that the Son of Man is Lord over the Sabbath? Why did Jesus say this?

10. How does knowing who Jesus is guide us in understanding and applying God's law?

### **DAY 4**    MARK 3:1-6 — Controversy about Healing on the Sabbath

11. Why were the Pharisees watching Jesus when He went into the synagogue? vv.1-2

12. Read verses 3-6. Why is the Sabbath exactly the right day for this?

13. What did Jesus see in the Pharisees' hearts? What did the religious leaders do?

14. Did you catch the irony of Christ's question in verse 4? (Hint verse 6.)

**DAY 5**    MARK 2:13-3:6 — Wrap Up

15. God is a God of people, not of rules. How do you sometimes get this confused?

16. How have Christ's actions broken free from cultural norms? As Christ's followers, how are we to be counter-cultural?

**TAKE AWAY**

Proverbs 4:23: "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." How can you guard your heart from becoming like the Pharisees?

**BLESSING**

Jesus came for those who know they are sinners. He came for each of us, no matter our sin. And He has called us to follow Him.

## Heart for Jesus

Jesus came to call all people—and all are sinners. Only those who know they are sinners will respond. The Pharisees’ pride in keeping the law became a snare. We may not be that legalistic, but do we set ourselves above others? See 1 John 1:8. Jesus Christ calls His own to come to Him for forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration. By admitting our daily sin we can avoid the smugness of the Pharisees!

Jesus slighted fasts that were the mark of religious “experts”, and questioned laws concerning the Sabbath. In each

case an Old Testament concept was made rigid, negating its original purpose. Fasting became a public show of spirituality and the many regulations regarding the Sabbath had virtually destroyed its original purpose of being a holy day to the Lord.

Jesus surprises us—with those He chooses; with those He heals; with the way He works. We cannot just patch Jesus on to parts of our life or sprinkle a little Jesus into our worldviews. He redefines both.

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