

## Friend of Sinners

Mark 2:1-17

Small Group Notes

### INTRODUCTION

From Mark 2:1 to 3:6, there are five controversies that Jesus faces. The opposition of the religious leaders will grow to the point of plotting to kill him (3:6). Jesus remains true to the Divine mission and the will of the Father. In Mark 2:1-17, Jesus is opposed because of His words and His actions.

**Main Idea:** Jesus is opposed for His authority to forgive sins, and for being a friend of sinners.

**Read:** Mark 2:1-17

#### Opening Question:

There are four main groups of people in the Gospel of Mark:

- 1) The **Crowds** who are drawn to Jesus, but never commit to become his disciple.
- 2) The highly respected elite **Religious Leaders** who stand opposed to Jesus and plot to destroy Him.
- 3) The **Disciples** who follow Him, but in Mark's Gospel they repeatedly fail to understand Jesus and follow His example. This changes after the resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) The "**Little People**," who only appear once in the Gospel, but demonstrate what true faith and being a disciple looks like (e.g., the leper, the paralytic and his friends, the widow, etc.).

How can we relate to the four groups that we encounter through Mark's Gospel? What does the emphasis of the humble little people who are examples of faith, teach us about our own faith and what God desires?

## DIG AND DISCOVER

**Jesus is opposed for His words that demonstrate His authority to forgive sins (2:1-12).**

- Discuss the faith of the four friends, who bring the paralyzed man to Jesus and make a way for him to experience the forgiveness and restoration he needs. *Who are the people we know who are trapped in brokenness and have lost hope? How can we have the faith of the four friends and what does it look like for us to bring them to Jesus?*
- Jesus heals the man of his sins and fully restores him to physical wellness. While we all want physical healing which God at times does give, the ultimate healing we need is to be fully restored to a right relationship with God through Jesus who will make all things new when His kingdom fully comes. *How can we encourage one another, when we face disease and death, knowing that that we have been restored to God and have eternal hope?*

**Jesus is opposed for His action of going to the social outcasts and sinners (2:13-17).**

- Jesus calls of Levi, the tax collector, demonstrates for us the reach of God's grace and that salvation is for all people. Jesus eating at Levi's house with other sinners and social outcasts, really shows how God comes to us in our brokenness and sins to save us and make us new.
- *How does this remind us that our achievements are not the basis of our acceptance into God's family? Jesus is our example; what does it look like for us to follow His example of going to those who know they are "sick" to show them and bring them the Gospel message?*

## **CLOSING**

Is there any specific way that God is speaking to you through His word this week?

How can we pray for each other this week?

Is there a small step of obedience that you would like to take?