



M A R K

The Gift of God





*Pushing Buttons –
Tripping Triggers*

Mark 2:1-3:6

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Pattern:

1. Jesus* *triggers* the Pharisees
2. Pharisees ask “Why...?”
3. Jesus challenges or explains

Mark 2:1-3:6



Triggers:

1. 'Blasphemous' Claims (2:1-12)
2. Bad Associations (2:13-17)
3. Breaking Traditions (2:18-22)
4. Beneficial Acts (2:23-3:6)



Blasphemous Claims

- Trigger: “Son, your sins are forgiven”
- Pharisees: “Why does this man speak this way?”
 - Only God can forgive sins
 - He claims to forgive sins
 - Therefore, He is blaspheming

Blasphemous Claims



- The issue is not *ability* but *authority*
 - Jesus had already healed many people
 - But forgiveness was not physical (visual)
- Which is easier, to say to the paralytic:
 - “Your sins are forgiven” ←
 - “Get up and walk”



Blasphemous Claims

- The issue is not *ability* but *authority*
 - This 'healing' was different (see 1:41)
 - Jesus *commanded* a paralyzed person to get up and walk
 - And the (once) paralytic obeyed! (2:12)
 - This miracle proved His authority (2:10)

Bad Associations



- Trigger: Jesus dining with tax collectors and ‘sinners’
- Pharisees: “Why is He eating with *them*?”
 - The *unlearned* were *rabble* (cf. John 7:49)
 - Especially those who broke the law, and even more so Roman sympathizers

Bad Associations



- Jesus: “I did not come to call the righteous but sinners”
- Key: *Self-recognized*
 - The self-righteous do not need to repent (1:15)...
 - But rather those who see their need

Breaking Traditions



- Trigger: Jesus' disciples didn't fast
- *They*: "Why do Your disciples not fast?"
 - Only one fast suggested in OT law: the day of atonement (Lev. 16:29; Acts 27:9)
 - The 'pious' fasted 2x/week (Luke 18:12)
 - They made it obvious (Matt. 6:16-18)

Breaking Traditions



- Not breaking any OT law by not fasting
 - *Tradition*, or man-made religious rules
 - Wedding festivities were exempt (week-long celebrations)
 - The *attendants* (19) threw the party

Breaking Traditions



- *Old garment* ≠ OT law (system)
 - Rather Judaism as a legalistic religion
 - Holy people may fast, but fasting does not necessarily make one holy (Zech. 7)
 - Legalistic Judaism was insufficient to continue; a new form was needed

Beneficial Acts



- Trigger: disciples *plucking* grain
- Pharisees: “Why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”
 - *Lawful* – as *they* defined it
 - External, ritualistic, legalistic (Matt. 23)
 - Man-made standards (cf. Mark 7:1-13)

Beneficial Acts



- Trigger: disciples *plucking* grain
 - Deut. 23:25 - “When you enter your neighbor’s standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain.”

Beneficial Acts



- Trigger: disciples *plucking* grain
 - Deut. 23:25 allowed for snacking
 - But this was on the Sabbath!
 - Charge: *harvesting, threshing, and winnowing* are all work!

Beneficial Acts



- Jesus: “Have you never read...?”
 - Jesus pushing buttons!
 - They prided themselves on being experts of the OT -- but they didn't *know* it
 - Man's need outweighed ceremonial law

Beneficial Acts



- The Sabbath was made for man
 - A blessing; grace - relief from the curse
 - Gen. 3:17-19 -- *...by the sweat of your face you will eat bread...*
 - Ex. 20:8-11 -- *...Six days you shall labor...but the seventh is a sabbath...*

Beneficial Acts



- So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath
 - Jesus: “I have authority over the Sabbath; you do not.” (cf. 2:10) “And, I’m God.”
 - Not setting aside the Sabbath law but challenging their understanding of it ...

Beneficial Acts



- Trigger: healing on the Sabbath
- Pharisees: watching in order to accuse
- Jesus: **Good / save** vs. **harm / kill**
- Their silence betrayed their hard hearts
 - They were plotting evil! (3:2, 6)

Beneficial Acts



- Jesus moved the discussion from religious practice (*lawful*) to morality (*good*)
 - See Isaiah 56:1-8; 58:1-14
 - Rabbinic rules allowed for dealing with calamity on the Sabbath – i.e. - *doing good* (cf. Matt. 12:11-12)

Beneficial Acts



- Once again, Jesus gives a command
 - *Who is the One with authority...?*
 - To command the incapable?
 - To challenge the Pharisees?
 - To correct false religion?
 - *The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath*

Beneficial Acts



- Immediately conspired with the Herodians
 - Secular political party
 - Enemies of the Pharisees
 - United against a common enemy (8:15?)
 - *Tax money* trap – Mark 12:13-17
- They conspired to destroy Him

Review



- *Who is He?*
- The Son of Man:
 - Has the authority of God to forgive sins
 - Came to call sinners to repentance
 - Offers a whole new system
 - Challenges false (empty) religion

So What?



- Do I really understand who Jesus is?
- Do I really understand His message?
 - I am a sinner who needs a Physician
 - Repentance is not a one-time thing
- Where have I turned grace into law?
- Is my heart hard to God's correction?