

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH  
*Mark Series: Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*

**ONLY ONE WINESKIN HOLDS THE JOY-FILLED WINE OF LIFE.**  
*You'll either love Jesus or seek to kill him because he kills religion.*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

**MARK 2:18-3:6**

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In Mark 2:18-3:6 we see that Jesus, the Son of Man, who has authority on earth to forgive sins is also God come to earth to claim his bride and thus, the Lord of the Sabbath.

**Mark 2:18-22 The Bridegroom's Arrival Bursts Our Revelation-Distorting Traditions**

**WE HAVE ONLY A FEW WINESKINS (TRADITIONS/OUTLOOKS) IN WHICH WE TO PUT OUR FAITH:**

meaningless, power-based **materialism/naturalism** (???/Friedrich Nietzsche)

revelation-robbing, rules-based **humanism** (Herodians///Freud)

revelation-robbing, rules-based **religions** (Pharisees//Judaism, Christianity, ???)

**Jesus**-dependent helplessness

**2:18** Pharisees: *If you knew God like we know him you'd fast 104 times a year...*

Leviticus 16:29 humble/afflict yourself re: The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is the only Torah required fast.

**2:19** For the religious it's about rules, for Jesus it's about *Good News*: the bridegroom is here!

**ESV John 3:29** *The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.*

John's role was to bring bride and groom together and delight in the new family they would be! Jesus is pointing again to himself as the fulfillment of the kingdom:

**Isaiah 62:5** (NASB95)

5 For *as* a young man marries a virgin,  
*So* your sons will marry you;  
And *as* the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
*So* your God will rejoice over you.

**Hosea 2:16** *"And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,'*  
20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

**2:20** He will be taken away – arrest, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension—and then it is appropriate to fast, not to look good—but to focus, to keep y our affections stirred towards your bridegroom.

**2:21-22** the newness that Jesus brings will not fit in the old: we need new wedding clothes that only he can provide; we need the new wine, the best wine, which only he as Lord of the Feast can give.

## **Mark 2:23-3:6 The Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath, Is Himself Our Sabbath Rest**

**2:23-24 (3:1-2)** The watchers are watching everywhere because of their gross distortion of what God is like:

**2:25-28** Because they don't understand the Father, they don't understand the Sabbath.

Their great King David understood (anointed by Saul, but not yet installed); he ate the consecrated tabernacle bread!

The greater than David is here!

God created and saw it was good and rested:

Weekly rest for us is good because of the brokenness of creation, including us.

But the creation is good and for us!

And now the one who will fix creation's brokenness is among us: he is Lord of Sabbath!

He is our Sabbath rest, for God is completing redemption and creation in him.

**3:1-6** To make sure we get it, Jesus goes into a synagogue on the Sabbath and heals a shriveled hand.

The Pharisees said you could save a life on the Sabbath, pull someone from a life-threatening situation, but you should violate Sabbath rest for nothing less.

Some believed if only all would keep the Sabbath, then Messiah and God's glory would come.

But Jesus, in this second Sabbath violation, now deserves to die.

Ironically, they will consort with the tainted Herodians to bring it about.

Jesus destroys religion.

### **APPLICATION:**

- 1/ Learn to hate religion and love your Bridegroom! (Be open to fasting as an aid to focus your heart.)
- 2/ Love your neighbor: identify and empathize with their blind bondage to wineskins which cannot satisfy.
- 3/ Register & vote for those most likely to sustain religious freedom above all else: for our American Founders understood that without faith in God-given inalienable rights, virtue, and thus, liberty cannot be sustained. The freedom of the practice of religion is America's unique freedom. The best predictor of future performance is past performance. Americans have good reason to fear big government leaders and judges who think they control and define our liberties and rights.
- 4/ Stop putting on religious patches and let Jesus satisfy your heart and fill it with the joy of his new wine.