

MARK

Mark Wk.7
Mk. 2:18-22

General:

- Have you ever had a moment where you completely missed something important that was right in front of you? What happened?
- In your experience, how do people tend to draw lines around who's "in" and who's "out" when it comes to faith or spirituality?
- In Jesus' day, many religious people fasted regularly. What do you think fasting represented for them?
- When Jesus responds in verses 19-20 about a wedding and the bridegroom, what feels surprising or even confusing about His answer?
- Jesus uses the image of old wine and new wineskins in verses 21-22. What do you think He's trying to communicate through that picture?
- Why do you think the people questioning Jesus struggled to understand what He was doing?

Take Home 1: Is our Christian life and practice one of absence more than it is of presence? (Mk. 2:19)

- When people experience your life and faith, would they describe it more by joy and hope, or by uneasiness, pessimism, or fear? Why?
- We often say that Jesus is with us through the Holy Spirit. What does that actually look like in everyday life?
- Do you ever find yourself saying “Jesus is with me,” but living in a way that doesn’t reflect that reality? Where does that show up?
- If someone observed your life closely, would it look more like a funeral or a wedding? What might need to change?
- How do you personally live in the tension of the “now and not yet”—knowing Jesus is with you right now, but still experiencing moments where He feels distant or unseen?

Take Home 2: In what ways might we be trying to attach Jesus to our way(s) of life, rather than allowing His transforming power to change ours? (Mk. 2:22)

- In what ways do we try to hold onto “old ways” of thinking, living, or prioritizing while still claiming new life in Christ?
- Where do you see the temptation to add Jesus onto your existing lifestyle rather than allowing Him to reshape it?
- Pastor Chip said: “Following Jesus will lead to a structural disruption of our lives.” What do you think that disruption actually looks like? Why do you think we often resist that kind of deep transformation?
- Pastor Chip gave some diagnostic questions. Which one stood out to you? Which one do you need to ask yourself this week?
- Do you find yourself wanting transformation or just reassurance? How can you tell the difference in your own life?

Take Home 3: Could we be disciplined in our devotion, but missing God? (Mk. 2:18a)

- Are you open to the idea that something you currently see as “faithful” or “godly” might actually be causing you to miss God? Why or why not?
- What are some of the biggest distractions (internal or external) that keep you from noticing what God is doing around you?
- What practical rhythms or habits help you stay attentive to God’s presence and activity?
- If you call Grace home, where do you see God currently at work in your church community? What would it look like for you to step more intentionally into what God is doing right now instead of missing it?