

Study Guide: Jesus the Bridegroom

Carter Sanger, Jan-10

Introduction

Read Mark 2:18-22.

- Can you think of an example from your own life in which you and someone else simply didn't see eye to eye regarding an issue? What was that experience like?
- Imagine the dangers of not seeing eye to eye with God.

I. Fasting

- Who is asking the question in verse 18? Why do you think this was a question worth including in Mark's gospel?
- Read Luke 18:12. How does Jesus reference fasting in this parable? What is fasting a sign of? What did fasting gain for the Pharisee?
- We're good at figuring out the things that our culture and society embrace. We're good at figuring out how we can latch onto one of those things that will win us praise. People in our culture hold up external beauty and so we work at making ourselves beautiful. People in our culture respect a hard worker and so we become workaholics. People in our culture admire wit and charm and so learn to flash a smile at the right time or be clever with our words. Where do you find yourself working hard for approval and admiration?
- Can you think of anything in your life meant to reveal God that instead is concealing God?

II. Feasting

Read verse 19.

- How does Jesus relate the presence of the bridegroom to fasting? What does this suggest was the intent of fasting? Read 1 Samuel 7:3-6 and 2 Samuel 12:13-17. What is fasting coupled with in these examples?
- The imagery of husband and bride is used in the Bible as a picture of God and his people in Isaiah 54 and Hosea. In the New Testament, Paul gets more specific and shows that marriage is meant to be a picture of the relationship between God in Christ and the church. It is one way of depicting the grand theme of the Scriptures. Read Genesis 17:7-8; Ex 6:7; Lev 26:12; Jer 31:1; Eze 36:28; 2 Cor 6:16; Heb 8:10; and especially Rev 21:1-3. What does this say is the goal of God in history?
- Examine your own prayer life. When do you find it most intense? What are your prayers most often about? If you were to sketch up your end goal drawn solely from your prayers, what would those goals look like?
- Revelation 21:4 and following depicts the "happily ever after" that fairy tales hint at. How does this change your perspective on your own pursuits?

III. Filling

Jesus provides two parables to show us that Jesus can't simply be "added on" to your current lifestyle and goals. He demands a new life altogether.

- Why is this? What happens when you try and add Jesus into your life as it is? What happened to the old garment?
- Read Gen 3:7. What did Adam and Eve do to hide themselves? What does God do in Gen 3:21? Why?
- Read Matthew 22:11-12. What is required to be at the wedding?
- Read Rev 7:14. What does it take to have a new garment?
- Read 1 Cor 5:14-17. What does this suggest about the person wearing the new garment? How has his life changed?

Wrap-up

- What struck you most about this passage in Mark 2:18-22. What will you take away?