

(In preparation for gathered worship next week, October 12, 2008)

Mark 2:13 – 3:35

When Jesus gathers a group of people around him – men and women he has ‘fished’ out of the world – he expects them to break the mold of society. In other words, followers of Jesus are different from the world.

But not just different *from* the world, also different *for* the world. It is our differences that we minister to the world!

This is the point of the accounts Mark weaves together in our passage this week. Revel in his verbal tapestry and work through the following questions.

- 1) What does Jesus mean when he says, ‘I came not to call the righteous, but sinners?’ (2:17)

- 2) Why does new wine need fresh wineskins? See 2:21-22. How does Jesus associate this teaching with his earthly work?

- 3) When Jesus says ‘the Sabbath was made for man’ and ‘the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath’ (2:27), what is his point?

- 4) Jesus chose twelve disciples ‘so that they might be with him’. (3:14) Why is it important to be ‘with him’?

- 5) What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (3:28-30) Why is it an ‘eternal sin’?

- 6) What is the sign that you are a member of Christ’s family? See 3:35. Is there evidence of that sign in your life? Give examples.