

# Sermon Outline

JESUS REDEFINES RELIGION | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Mark 2:18-3:6 (p.1427)

"Meet Jesus" in Mark's gospel	Passage
1. Jesus proclaims good news	1:1-15
2. Jesus changes lives	1:16-45
3. Jesus forgives sins	2:1-17
4. Jesus redefines religion	2:18-3:6
5. Jesus changes everything	3:7-35

"Every church member wanting to read Mark's gospel 1-2-1 evangelistically in 2025"

**For discussion:** what do most Australians think about when they hear the word "religion"?

Mk 2:18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" 19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. 21 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Mk 2:23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" 25 He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." 27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Mk 3:1 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." 4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

5 R's for reading Mark's gospel ...

- i. **Retell:** Retell the episode in your own words
- ii. **React:** How do people react to Jesus?
- iii. **Reveal:** What is revealed about Jesus?
- iv. **Reason:** What reason might Mark have for including this episode?
- v. **Respond:** What does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

## i. Retell the episode in your own words

Scene 1: "Why aren't your disciples fasting?" (2:18-22)

- from "fasting" to "feasting"

Scene 2: "Why are your disciples doing something unlawful on the Sabbath?" (2:23-28)

- 1 Samuel 21-22

Lk 13:15 The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?"

Scene 3: "What is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" (3:1-6)

Mt 12:11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

- the wrong question: "are we at risk of breaking the Sabbath?"
- the right question: "how can we fulfil the intention of the Sabbath?"

## ii. React: how do people react to Jesus?

## iii. Reveal: what is revealed about Jesus?

- religion (rules and regulations) vs relationship with God

## iv. Reason: what reason might Mark have for including this episode?

## v. Respond: what does Mark teach us about how to respond to Jesus?

Lk 13:15 The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? 16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

## Where to next?

Explore, 4 Sundays (starting 2 March)

Tim Keller, *King's Cross: Understanding the life and death of the Son of God* (2011)

Praying for 2 minutes for 2 people each day ...

60 seconds with ...