

## Week 3: Jesus Redefines Righteousness

(Sunday, July 27: Sermon focus from Mark 2:1-28)

### Full Weekly Reading: Mark 2:1-28

- **Monday, July 28:** Mark 2:1-5a (The Paralytic Brought to Jesus: Faith of Friends)
  - **Provocative Question:** Who is in your life that needs to be "lowered through the roof" to Jesus, and what radical effort are you willing to make for their encounter with Him?
- **Tuesday, July 29:** Mark 2:5b-12 (Jesus Forgives Sins and Heals the Paralytic)
  - **Provocative Question:** Which is harder for you to believe: that Jesus can forgive your deepest sins, or that He can heal your most stubborn physical or emotional ailment? Why?
- **Wednesday, July 30:** Mark 2:13-17 (Jesus Calls Levi and Eats with Sinners)
  - **Provocative Question:** If Jesus came to your workplace or social circle, who would He dine with that would shock your religious or social sensibilities, and how does that challenge your own comfort zones?
- **Thursday, July 31:** Mark 2:18-22 (The Question About Fasting: New Wine, New Wineskins)
  - **Provocative Question:** What "old wineskins" – old habits, rigid traditions, or outdated ways of thinking – are preventing you from fully receiving the fresh, new life and radical demands of walking with Jesus?
- **Friday, August 1:** Mark 2:23-28 (The Disciples Pluck Grain; Lord of the Sabbath)
  - **Provocative Question:** Do you prioritize rigid rules or genuine human need (including your own rest and provision) in your pursuit of "righteousness"? How might Jesus invite you to a more freeing understanding of holiness?



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# WALKING WITH JESUS: A DAILY REFLECTION JOURNEY



## A COMPANION GUIDE TO OUR SERMON SERIES IN MARK

### PART 1: THE CALL TO FOLLOW (JULY)

#### Welcome to "Walking with Jesus!"

Dear Church Family,

We are embarking on an exciting and transformative journey together: a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark titled "Walking with Jesus." For the next few months, our Sunday sermons will guide us through the most important passages, themes, stories, and parables of Jesus, allowing us to truly "meet" Him and understand what it means to choose to walk with Him in every aspect of our lives.

This handout is your personal guide to engage with the Gospel of Mark throughout the week, complementing our Sunday messages. The goal is simple: to help you cultivate a daily rhythm of encountering Jesus in His Word, reflecting on His life and teachings, and applying them to your own journey of discipleship.

By the end of this series, our prayer is that you will have a clearer understanding of Jesus' identity, His radical call to follow, and feel empowered to live a life actively "Walking with Jesus" through all of life's circumstances.

Let's begin this journey together!

Grace & Peace,  
Donnie

# HOW TO USE THIS DAILY REFLECTION GUIDE

This guide is designed to foster a rich, personal encounter with the Gospel of Mark. We encourage you to make it a regular part of your week.

## For Each Week:

1. **Read the Entire Weekly Passage:** On Sunday evening or Monday morning, before diving into the daily readings, we strongly recommend you read the entire weekly passage in one sitting. This will give you the full context and narrative flow for the coming days of reflection.
2. **Get a Notebook or Journal:** This is your space to process, question, and apply. Writing down your thoughts helps solidify your understanding and allows you to track your spiritual growth throughout the series.
3. **Pray:** Before you read each day, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes, heart, and mind to what Jesus wants to teach you. Ask Him to help you apply the truth to your life.

## For Each Day (Monday-Friday):

- **Read Slowly:** Focus only on the designated verses for that day. Read them multiple times if helpful.
- **Reflect:** What stands out to you? What does this passage reveal about Jesus? What does it reveal about human nature or God's Kingdom?
- **Engage with the Provocative Question:** Just as Jesus often used provocative questions to open people to new understandings of the Kingdom of God, these questions are designed to help you personally apply the text to your discipleship journey. Don't rush your answer. Write down your honest thoughts, feelings, and any insights or challenges that emerge.
- **Pray (Again):** Respond to God in prayer based on what you've read and reflected upon.

## Bonus Idea for Saturdays/Weekends:

- **Catch Up/Re-Read:** Use Saturday to catch up on any missed readings or to re-read the entire weekly passage from Sunday in light of your daily reflections.
- **Share:** Consider discussing your insights with a friend, family member, or in your small group!

## Week 1: The Grand Introduction & Radical Call

### Full Weekly Reading: Mark 1:1-20

- **Monday, July 14:** Mark 1:1-8 (The Beginning of the Gospel; John the Baptist Prepares the Way)
  - **Provocative Question:** What "wilderness" or uncomfortable preparation is God calling you to, to better receive Jesus' coming work in your life?
- **Tuesday, July 15:** Mark 1:9-13 (Jesus' Baptism and Temptation)
  - **Provocative Question:** If God's voice affirmed you as "beloved," how might that deep identity allow you to face temptation and move forward into your calling with greater confidence?
- **Wednesday, July 16:** Mark 1:14-15 (Jesus Begins His Ministry)
  - **Provocative Question:** "The time is fulfilled... the kingdom of God has come near." What immediate, tangible action does your belief in this reality require of you today?
- **Thursday, July 17:** Mark 1:16-18 (The Call of Simon and Andrew)
  - **Provocative Question:** What is one "net" (comfort, security, ambition) that Jesus might be asking you to drop right now, to more fully follow Him?
- **Friday, July 18:** Mark 1:19-20 (The Call of James and John)
  - **Provocative Question:** The brothers left their father and hired servants. What established support system or expectation might Jesus be inviting you to reconsider or leave behind for His sake?

## Week 2: Authority and Compassion in Action

### Full Weekly Reading: Mark 1:21-45

- **Monday, July 21:** Mark 1:21-28 (Jesus Teaches and Heals a Demonic Man in Capernaum)
  - **Provocative Question:** In what area of your life do you need to recognize Jesus' authority as truly "new" and distinct from conventional wisdom, and allow it to challenge your assumptions?
- **Tuesday, July 22:** Mark 1:29-31 (Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law)
  - **Provocative Question:** When you are healed or helped by Jesus, what is your immediate response? Do you, like Peter's mother-in-law, use your renewed strength to serve others?
- **Wednesday, July 23:** Mark 1:32-34 (Jesus Heals Many at Evening)
  - **Provocative Question:** Jesus healed many and cast out many demons. What overwhelming need in the world around you, or in your own life, feels beyond your capacity, and how might Jesus' power address it?
- **Thursday, July 24:** Mark 1:35-39 (Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place and Continues His Ministry)
  - **Provocative Question:** Despite overwhelming demands, Jesus prioritized solitary prayer. What urgent "good" things are crowding out your essential time with God, and what needs to shift?
- **Friday, July 25:** Mark 1:40-45 (Jesus Cleanses a Leper)
  - **Provocative Question:** The leper was outcast, yet Jesus touched him. Who are the "outcasts" or uncomfortable people in your sphere, and how might Jesus be calling you to compassionately engage, even at personal cost?