



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 41, Day 1 --- Mark 2

Week 41, Day 2 --- John 5

Week 41, Day 3 --- Mark 3 - Luke 6 - Matthew 12:1-21

Week 41, Day 4 --- Matthew 5-7

Week 41, Day 5 --- Luke 7 - Matthew 8:1-13

Week 41, Day 6 --- Matthew 11

Week 41, Day 7 --- Luke 11 - Matthew 12:22-50

Week 41, Day 1 --- Mark 2

This chapter begins with one of my favorite Jesus stories. It must have taken incredible guts and determination to rip up the roof on a neighbor's house in order to get their friend in front of Jesus. These men had incredible faith and their friend had an incredible need. Actually, their friend had two needs. He needed both physical and spiritual healing. Jesus easily deals with both needs.

Jesus was not popular with the religious people of His day. These were good people and would have been viewed as the people to imitate until Jesus came along. The religious people of Jesus' day followed the law to the letter, but looked down on other people. Jesus kept both the letter and the spirit of the law and built people up. Who would you follow?

Week 41, Day 2 --- John 5

This is a chapter full of contrasts, but in those contrasts we really learn much about Jesus. The first story is about a man who has been paralyzed most of his life. He lives beside a pool of water that is supposed to have miraculous healing powers, yet there is nothing in the story to indicate that anyone in recent memory has actually been healed. Jesus does have the power to heal and He does heal this man. One of the big questions is why He doesn't just heal everyone who is beside the pool. There are no easy answers to that question. The big issue all through Jesus ministry was the Sabbath. The Sabbath was Saturday and was a day God intended to be a day of rest for people. The religious leaders had so distorted God's intent that people had to work very hard on that day to keep all the traditions that had been added to God's desire.

- Jesus asks the man by the pool, "Do you want to become well?" How does the man answer? Does this make sense? How would you respond if Jesus asked you, "Would you like to be released from prison?"
- Why do you think Jesus physically heals only this man at this time?
- Where does eternal life come from according to Jesus?
- Who do you think Jesus is? What does that mean to you?

Week 41, Day 3 --- Mark 3 - Luke 6 - Matthew 12:1-21

When we have finished reading through the entire Bible we'll come back and go through the gospels much more slowly. There is so much here. The content of Luke 6 will be expanded in tomorrow's reading. This is the core of what Jesus taught. Every time I read these verses I'm convicted of how I pick and choose the things I'm willing to do to follow Jesus. It is easy to follow Jesus when I'm surrounded by friends and family, because they are easy to love. Jesus asks me to treat my enemies, the people who seek to do me harm, in the same way that I treat those who care the most about me. This is very hard. What would the world be like if there were a group of people who really did what Jesus asks in this passage? What would change in your life, in your world, if you were willing to do exactly what Jesus says?

Week 41, Day 4 --- Matthew 5-7

It doesn't take very long to read this sermon. It takes a lifetime to even begin to apply everything that Jesus says. Jesus speaks to every area of life and He turns upside down everything that we expect from the world around us. Which of Jesus' teachings do you find the most difficult to understand? Which of these teachings do you find the easiest to understand, but difficult to do?

Week 41, Day 5 --- Luke 7 - Matthew 8:1-13

I love the story of Jesus at Simon's house. We really don't know Simon's motives. We can only guess based on the poor treatment he gives Jesus as his guest. It probably seems strange that this woman would have been able to come into contact with Jesus. Most houses, even for the wealthy, were not very large in these times. Most of the time the weather allowed for people to eat outside. When the wealthy ate there were probably always poor people gathered around hoping for some scraps from the table. This woman senses something good about Jesus before He has even done anything for her. Everyone in the town has condemned her and she probably lives very alone. Jesus forgives her and it wouldn't be surprising to find out that she follows Jesus from this time on. Simon is not perfect, but he thinks he is. For that reason he thinks that he has nothing to be forgiven for. Until he recognizes his sin he will never recognize or appreciate Jesus.

Have you recognized your sin? How much has Jesus forgiven you for?

Week 41, Day 6 --- Matthew 11

How do you think God would act if He became a human being and came to earth? How your answer will tell you a lot about what you think God is like. Many people who saw Jesus didn't recognize Him as God because He didn't fit their picture of God. Even when He performed miracles and they observed them first hand they didn't believe. They were absolutely convinced that He couldn't be God because they couldn't imagine God associating with sinners or having fun at a party.

The yoke that Jesus talks about at the end of the chapter has two meanings and they are related. The first meaning for yoke comes from farming. When a farmer plows a field he needs a way to tie the plow to the ox that is pulling it. In Jesus' day they had a wooden device that rested on the ox's shoulder and tied around his neck that was called a yoke. If two oxen were used the yoke tied the two oxen together. For people the yoke was a way of life that was taught by a rabbi (teacher). The things that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount would be considered Jesus' yoke. The Pharisees taught keeping the Law. This was their yoke. It was heavy and impossible. Jesus taught loving God and others. Jesus says that this yoke is easy and light. Why do we find it so heavy?

Week 41, Day 7 --- Luke 11 - Matthew 12:22-50

Jesus tells us that we are more than flesh and blood. Our physical bodies would be just like animals except that our physical bodies also contain a spirit. When we become followers of Jesus then God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, comes into us and lives with our spirit. The Holy Spirit provides us with protection and guidance. Without the Holy Spirit our bodies are open to be dwelling places for evil spirits. The evil spirits will seek to destroy us. They will also seek to guide us, but they will seek to guide us away from God. Jesus was warning the people that sending one evil spirit away without inviting the Holy Spirit in was a foolish and dangerous thing to do.

Some of what Jesus says in this passage is very difficult to understand. This verse is very simple:

Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

This is what is most important. Jesus asks us over and over to follow Him, to obey what He says. What have you heard Him ask you to do that you are finding difficult to obey?