

Mark

A Study of the Gospel of Mark
Mark 2:18-22

Mark 2:18

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?"

Fasting in the OT – Lev 16:29

29 “This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work— whether native-born or an alien living among you— 30 because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.

Fasting in the OT – Zech 7

4 Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: 5 “Ask all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?’

Fasting in the OT – Zech 8

18 Again the word of the LORD Almighty came to me. 19 This is what the LORD Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.”

Jewish Fasting Customs

**Jews fasted every Monday
and Thursday**

Luke 18:9-14

NT Teaching on Fasting

**Christ condoned fasting as a
private act of worship**

Matthew 6:16-18

NT Teaching on Fasting

Three mentions of fasting in the NT:

1. Paul after first seeing the Lord

9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. Acts 9:9

NT Teaching on Fasting

Three mentions of fasting in the NT:

**2. The commissioning of Barnabas
and Saul**

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:2-3

NT Teaching on Fasting

Three mentions of fasting in the NT:

3. The appointment of Elders in new churches

**23 Paul and Barnabas appointed
elders for them in each church and,
with prayer and fasting, committed
them to the Lord, in whom they had
put their trust.**

Acts 14:23

Mark 2:19-20

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.

The Bridegroom Analogy

1. The historical context of a Jewish Wedding

The Bridegroom Analogy

2. The Christological significance of Christ referring to himself as a bridegroom since the OT never referred to the Messiah as the Bridegroom.

- In the OT the bridegroom referred to God and the bride was Israel**

The Bridegroom Analogy

3. The connection to NT revelation which indicates that Christ is the bridegroom and the Church is the bride.

27 To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’ 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less.

John 3:27–30

The Bridegroom Analogy

4. The foreshadowing of Christ's work on the cross.

- This is the first indication of the cross in Mark's Gospel.

Mark 2:21

21 “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

Mark 2:22

22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins.”

The NEW teachings of Christ
are not compatible with the
OLD religious traditions of
Men.

Mark

...the way
...the way
...the way

...a boat, preparing their
...he called them, and they
...saw in the boat with
...followed him.