

Growing Kingdom Conflict

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 25, 2018; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – Jesus Christ inaugurates a new age of salvation that is fundamentally incompatible with the old, demonstrated in His offer of salvation to anyone who believes. This reorientation of offering the gospel to sinners is met with great hostility, and still is today.

I. Conflict Introduced – Read Mark 2:1-12

- A. How was Jesus' teaching more important and more profitable than His healing ministry? What was the purpose of Jesus' healings? Is the gospel still more valuable than health or wealth?
- B. Why do you think Jesus' question in (v.9) is so difficult to answer, "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk?'"
- C. How would you describe the conflict being introduced here between Jesus and the Pharisees?
- D. How would you like to grow in seeing sin as the main issue in your life and not other things?

II. Conflict Intensified – Read Mark 2:13-28

- A. What stands out to you in the calling of Levi and Jesus' willingness to eat with sinners?
- B. As you wrestle with (v.17), in what areas of your life do you struggle with being self-righteous?
- C. After reading (vv.18-22), how does Jesus being the Bridegroom, you being part of the church, His bride, and the analogy of a wedding feast help you to have greater joy in your salvation?
- D. Some Pharisees fasted to show they were deeply concerned about spiritual matters. How is this commendable? How were they mistaken in their focus? How can you learn from their mistake?
- E. What is the significance that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath? How does this incredible statement relate to you finding the spiritual rest needed for your soul? (Hint: Matthew 11:28-30)

III. Conflict Climaxed – Read Mark 3:1-6

- A. What reasons do you think the Pharisees would have given for deciding to kill Jesus (v.6)?
- B. What did Jesus mean when He asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" How is He challenging the Pharisees hypocrisy with this question?
- C. How would you like to grow in being an aroma of life to those who are being saved, even when it requires you to be an aroma of death to those who are perishing at the same time?