

SCENES IV-V: Mark 2:23-27; 3:1-6

SETTING THE STAGE: Read out loud, paying attention to the surroundings

1. Set the stage for each of these two stories; place/time/atmosphere
2. Who are the characters in the these two scenes?

SCRIPT: Read out loud, paying attention to Jesus

1. What are the questions posed in each story, by whom, and what are the responses?
2. Describe Jesus' behavior toward the people he encounters?
3. What character traits does Jesus reveal in his reactions?
4. Look over the Chiasm chart handout from last week What patterns do you see within these past two lessons?

REVIEWS: Silently review this lesson's readings, asking God to reveal something new to you about Jesus and his character.

1. Did something impress you about Jesus?
2. Would anyone care to share a personal insight?



IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE:

A. Scriptures (Parallel Gospel Accounts)

Matthew 9:1-17

Luke 5:17-39

B. Suggested Reference Materials

Beautiful Outlaw by John Eldredge

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey.

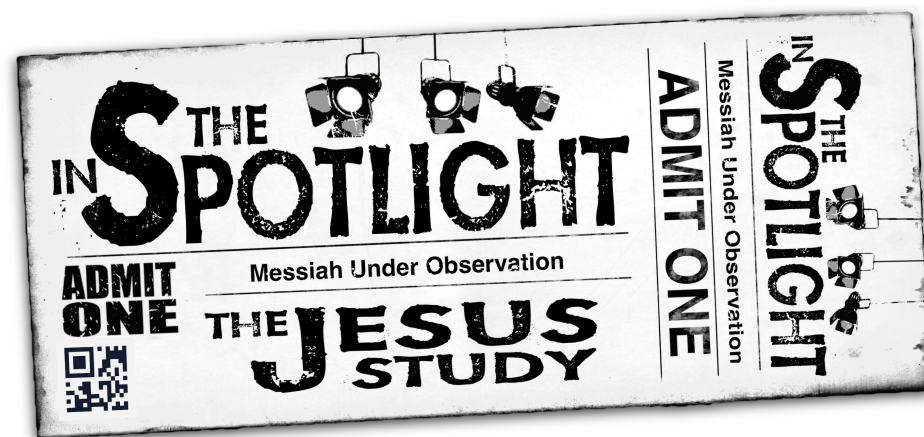
Next Week:

Rock Star Status & Kingdom Power

Scriptures:

Mark 3:7-19

Matthew 10:5-8



LESSON #3

Bull's Eye - The Reaction

Scriptures:

Mark 2:1 - 3:6

Focus Scripture: Mark 3:6

"Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him."

Food for Thought: Do you know someone who confronts the status quo? How do you feel in that situation?

Vocabulary Definitions:

Capernaum (*kə'pɜːrneɪəm* literally 'Nahum's village'; Arabic: *KafrNāḥūm*) was a fishing vil-lage established during the time of the Hasmoneans (140-37BCE), on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It had a population of about 1,500 in the 1st century AD. Archaeological excavations have revealed two ancient synagogues built one over the other. A house turned into a church by the Byzantines is believed to have been the home of the disciple Peter.

Fasting in the ancient Near East, prayer and fasting were advocated as a means to have one's requests fulfilled by the gods. The Bible emphasizes that the fast is not an end in itself but only a means through which one can humble their heart and repent for sins manifesting itself in deeds. (Joel 2:13; Jonah 2:8) The idea is especially stressed in Isaiah (58:3ff).

Pharisees (Hebrew: פְּרִישִׁיִּים) were a Jewish social movement and school of thought during the time of Second Temple Judaism. Josephus (historian c. 37 – c. 100 CE) estimated the total Pharisee population before the fall of Jerusalem (70 CE) to be around 6,000. He claimed that the Pharisees' influence over the common people was so great that anything they said against the king or the high priest was believed. Pharisees claimed Mosaic authority for their interpretation of Jewish religious law.

Sanhedrin (Hebrew and Aramic: סַנְהֶדְרִין from Koinē Greek: *Συνέδριον*, 'sitting together,') was an assembly of either 23 or 71 elders to sit as a tribunal in every city in ancient Israel. It had two classifications: Great Sanhedrin, and Lesser Sanhedrin.

Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context:

Much was happening in the rest of the world at the time into which Jesus was born. In 41 BCE, the Roman leader Mark Antony named Herod and his brother Phasael as tetrarchs over portions of Judah. Then Herod was unexpectedly appointed King of the Jews by the Roman Senate. Herod (the Great) got his title from his colossal building projects. He completed the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, developed water retention for Jerusalem, built personal fortresses Masada and Herodium, and founded new cities, such as Caesarea Maritima.

(Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context, continued:)

The Jews now had a king, who was Jewish, but who had to tow-the-line with Rome. Herod was also ruthless, and violent, having executed one of his wives, and three of his sons. He enjoyed the backing of Rome, but the Sanhedrin condemned his brutality. After his death in 4 BCE, when Jesus is young, his son Herod Archelaus rules over the tetrarchy of Judea, while other sons Herod Antipas and Herod Philip II rule as tetrarchs over Galilee and Perea. This is the mess into which Jesus arrives. Political and religious upheaval is the norm. The Pharisees and Sadducees are walking a tightrope to stave off Roman aggression. This week's lesson begins at the center (bull's eye) of a chiasm (Mark 1:14-3:6): a clash between Jesus and the religious leaders (Mark 2:1-12) and their subsequent questioning of Jesus' actions.

ACT I: Mark 2:1-12

SETTING SCENE I: Review the passage we ended with at our last lesson (Mark 2:1-11) and Set the stage; place/time/atmosphere.

SCRIPT: Read Mark 2:1-12 aloud paying attention to Jesus

1. What are Jesus' reactions to the interruptions?
2. How is Jesus revealing his humanity in this situation?
3. What is Jesus revealing about God's nature?

SCENES II-III: Read Mark 2:13-22

SETTING THE SCENE: Read out loud, paying attention to the surroundings

1. Set the stage; place/time/atmosphere
2. Who are the characters in each of these two scenes?

SCRIPT: Read out loud, Mark 2:1-17

1. What questions are posed and by whom? Jesus' response?
2. How is Jesus revealing God's nature?

read Isaiah 58:6-8, and Mark 2:18-22, paying attention to Jesus

3. What kind of fasting were John's disciples and the Pharisees engaging in?
4. What correlation can you see between Isaiah 58:6-8; Isaiah 61:1-3; the Bridegroom; fasting?
5. How is Jesus revealing God's nature?