

Mark 2:13–28

Monday — Big Picture Overview (Mark 2:13–28)

Read Mark 2:13–28 in one sitting. If possible, reread Mark 1–2 to see how this passage fits into the larger story of Jesus' early ministry. Focus on how Jesus calls Levi, eats with sinners, reframes fasting, and reorients the Sabbath around himself.

1. Summarize what happens in this passage. What are the major scenes?
2. How do these scenes reveal Jesus' authority and mission?
3. How is Jesus beginning to challenge the religious status quo?

Prayer Prompt: Ask the Lord to help you see Jesus more clearly, not only as a teacher, but as the one who fulfills and reorients God's covenant people around himself.

Tuesday — Jesus Calls Levi (Mark 2:13–17)

Read the text slowly and pay attention to movement: Jesus sees, calls, eats, and responds. Levi, a tax collector working at a toll station in Capernaum, is called away from serving Herod Antipas to follow the true King. Jesus' action is a royal summons and a shocking act of welcome to an outcast.

4. What stands out to you about Jesus' initiative in calling Levi?

5. Why do you think the Pharisees object to him eating with tax collectors and sinners?

6. How does Jesus' response in verse 17 shape our understanding of his mission as a healer of the outcast?

Prayer Prompt: Pray for eyes to see people as Jesus sees them, not by their reputation or past, but by their capacity to be transformed.

Wednesday — The Question of Fasting (Mark 2:18–22)

Fasting in Jesus' day was often tied to Israel's collective memory of disaster. Jesus reframes the practice by announcing himself as the Bridegroom—the fulfillment of Israel's hope. Through three images (wedding, patch, and wine), he reveals the explosive newness of the kingdom.

7. Why does Jesus describe his ministry in terms of a wedding feast?

8. How does the image of old and new garments/wineskins explain the newness of his mission?

9. What does this passage teach us about continuity and discontinuity between the Old and New Covenants?

Prayer Prompt: Ask the Spirit to make you receptive to the newness of life Jesus brings, even when it stretches old patterns and expectations.

Thursday — Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:23–28)

The Pharisees were cultural guardians of Sabbath observance, a core identity marker of God's people. Jesus answers their challenge by identifying himself with David, the anointed king not yet enthroned, and by claiming messianic authority as the Son of Man. This moment is not casual rule-breaking but a deliberate sign of the kingdom's arrival.

10. Why do the Pharisees object to the disciples' actions on the Sabbath?

11. How does Jesus use David's example to make a messianic claim about himself?

12. What does it mean that 'the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath'?

Prayer Prompt: Pray for grace to rest in Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, and to keep God's good gifts as gifts—not burdens.

Friday — Reflecting on the Whole Passage (Mark 2:13–28)

Revisit the entire passage and reflect on how Jesus' authority is displayed in his call, his feast, his teaching, and his lordship over the Sabbath. Notice how opposition begins to build as Jesus redefines holiness, community, and covenantal signs around himself.

13. How does Jesus' authority challenge and fulfill Israel's story?

14. What do you notice about how Jesus interacts with outsiders, insiders, and his own disciples?

15. How does this passage call you personally to deeper discipleship?

Prayer Prompt: Thank God for the freedom and newness Jesus brings. Ask for the courage to follow him even when he leads beyond familiar religious boundaries.