

THE MAN WHO FITS NO FORMULA

Mark 2:13–3:6

Memorize God's Word for the week: Mark 2:17.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 2:13-17—SURPRISING COMPANY

1. Observe Jesus' actions and words in these verses. What do you perceive His attitude to be toward
 - a. Levi?
 - b. tax collectors and sinners?
 - c. the Pharisees?
2. The scribes and Pharisees raise an issue by asking a question (2:16). To whom is the question directed?
3. What do you think their motivation was for asking the question?
4. Who answers the question and how?

DAY 2: MARK 2:18-20—A TROUBLING FREEDOM

5. Look up the dictionary definition of *fasting*. (Fasting will be discussed at length in the Commentary).
6. According to the following passages, what attitudes toward fasting does God desire?
 - a. Isaiah 58:3-7
 - b. Matthew 6:16-18

DAY 3: MARK 2:21-22—A TREMENDOUS TRUTH

7. What two adjectives are repeated in this passage, and why do you think this might be significant?
8. What is Jesus actually contrasting in these parables? (2 Corinthians 5:17).
9. How has Jesus replaced "*old wineskins*" in your life?

DAY 4: MARK 2:23-28—A SABBATH COMPLICATION

10. What is permitted by the Law in Deuteronomy 23:25?

11. What does Jesus say about the Pharisees' attitudes in Mark 7:8-13?

12. a. What is the key to observing the Sabbath according to Isaiah 58:13-14a?

b. What important point does Jesus make by His statement in Mark 2:27-28?

c. How can these verses still apply to followers of Jesus today?

DAY 5: MARK 3:1-6—A QUIETING QUESTION

13. What is Jesus' emotional response to the Pharisees' attitudes?

14. Why do you think the religious leaders so fear Jesus that they plot His death?

15. Read carefully Isaiah 58:13-14. What did both Jesus and Isaiah teach about obeying God's Law?

16. How can you incorporate these truths into your own life? Be specific!

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. Religious stubbornness angered and deeply distressed Jesus (Mark 3:5). This lesson not only reveals unloving attitudes toward needy sinners, but also hatred toward the Savior by religiously inflexible people. Like the Pharisees, we can become so set in our ways that we grieve our Lord. List some ways in which believers today might choose tradition over compassion. How can you avoid falling into this trap?