

Bible Study Questions

Our Joy – Mark 2:18-22

Focus

The long-awaited coming of Jesus into this world is the decisive moment of history that changes everything in a wonderful and spectacular way. The proper response, therefore, is joy and celebration, living with Jesus at the center of our lives.

Read

[Mark 2:18-22](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Opening Questions

1. How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? What have you learned?

Some Questions for Study and Reflection

2. In what way is this passage part of the theme of ‘increasing conflict’ between Jesus and the religious leaders that you find from 2:1-3:6?
3. What’s the area of conflict or tension in this passage?
4. What reasons does Jesus give for why He and His disciples don’t fast?
5. What do all of these illustrations have in common?
6. In what way is God spoken of as ‘the Bridegroom’ of His people in the Old Testament?
7. How do Jesus’ first recorded words in Mark’s Gospel (1:15) perhaps help us to further understand His teaching in this passage?

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8. How does verse 20 fit with what Jesus is saying in these verses?
9. In your own words, can you try and summarize the point that Jesus is making here?

Closing Reflection and Application

10. What was so special about the coming and presence of Jesus in the world?
11. Try to think through some of the implications of Jesus as the Bridegroom having now come to His people. In what way does His coming, for example, impact some of the old forms of worship and tradition within Judaism?
12. The passage perhaps raises some questions about ‘fasting’ today. What examples of fasting in the New Testament can you think of? What place and purpose does fasting have for Christians today?
13. How is our life before salvation like an ‘old garment’ that can’t be merely patched up?
14. How is our relationship with God in Jesus like ‘new wine’ that can’t be contained within our old way of life?
15. Are there aspects of your life where Jesus is merely more of an appendage than the center and focus?
16. In what way does your life give demonstration that your joy is Jesus? How do you celebrate the new life that you have in and with Him?