

A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, resting on a weathered wooden plank. The thorns are dark and sharp, with some small red spots visible on the wood. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account

Mark 2:13-28

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

Mark 2:13-28

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples:

Mark 2:13-28

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” ¹⁸ Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus,

Mark 2:13-28

“How is it that John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.

Mark 2:13-28

²⁰ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. ²¹ “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

Mark 2:13-28

²² And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

Mark 2:13-28

²³ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

Mark 2:13-28

²⁵ He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶ In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

Mark 2:13-28

²⁷ Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

²⁸ So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

MAIN IDEA:

Jesus came to make true disciples;
not affirm religious individuals.

“Many today view the church as a voluntary association of religious individuals, whose true allegiance lies elsewhere – the state, the nuclear family and the market.”

- Dr. Paul Louis Metzger

*Consuming Jesus - Beyond Race and Class Divisions
in a Consumer Church*

True disciples are...

- 1) Eager to follow regardless of the cost.
- 2) Aware of their great need for Jesus.
- 3) More concerned about their relationship with God than their religious acts for God.

My way of life was almost entirely forced. I worked hard at being a good disciple and pastor and wondered what this expression (abide) might really mean for me. It struck me that while I had received God's saving grace, I was not trusting in His sanctifying grace to work through me.

I was like a branch consumed with trying to “bear the fruit” rather than learning to “remain” and see God’s power and Spirit at work in me. I had to break free from measuring my life by my disciplines and practices; otherwise I would just value and do exactly what the Pharisees valued and did, both in activity and graceless spirit.

It didn't mean that I left all spiritual disciplines behind; rather, I understood that it was God I should seek, not perfection in disciplines. The disciplines could be varied and creative as part of a larger process of training in Christlikeness. They were not ends in themselves.

- Jamie Morrison, *"Confessions of a Modern Pharisee"*

Religion VS. The Gospel

Religious Individuals say...

“I obey; therefore I’m accepted.”

True Disciples say...

“I’m accepted; therefore I obey.”

Religion VS. The Gospel

Religious Individuals are...

Motivated by fear and insecurity.

True Disciples are...

Motivated by grateful joy.

Religion VS. The Gospel

Religious Individuals...

Obey God to get things from God.

True Disciples...

Obey God to get god, to delight in
and resemble him.

MAIN IDEA:

Jesus came to make true disciples;
not affirm religious individuals.

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and tangled branches, is positioned diagonally across the frame. It rests on a light-colored, weathered wooden plank. The background is a blurred wooden surface, suggesting a rustic or historical setting. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the wood and the sharp points of the thorns.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Mark's Gospel Account