



Mark Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 2: Forgives
Potential Sermon Title: Kingdom People
Passage: Mark 2:13-28

Connection to Mark 1:21–3:6

As Jesus taught, He showed His authority over sin. He also pointed to the kinds of people who would be citizens of His kingdom.

Introduction/Opening

How many times have you found yourself in an awkward setting or an uncomfortable moment? What did you do? You may have handled the discomfort by whispering to yourself, “I don’t think that I fit here. I’m not sure if I belong in this place.” The anxiety subsides only when you’re reassured that you really belong there.

Jesus gave the people who listened to Him that kind of assurance. As Jesus taught them at the seashore of the Sea of Galilee, the crowd grew larger as more people joined in to hear His instruction (v. 13). That’s when religious leaders confronted Him about His instruction. As He responded to them, He provided us with insight into the kinds of people who belonged in the kingdom of God.

We have that same assurance. We belong in the kingdom of God if we have seen our need for Him and have believed in Him.

Outline

1. The Kingdom includes people who need a physician (14-17).
 - a) The criticism (14-16)

The Pharisees complained about Jesus associating with “sinners” like Levi. Their criticism reveals the tendency to believe that people who don’t win our approval do not qualify to be citizens of God’s kingdom.
 - b) Jesus’ response (17)

Jesus addressed that tendency by comparing a sick person with someone who is well and declaring that He came for people who needed a physician. His kingdom isn’t composed of people who consider themselves to be self-reliant religious successes. On the contrary, we’re suited for the kingdom when we know that we need to turn to Jesus because only He can make us whole.
2. The Kingdom includes people who enjoy the Lord’s presence (18-22).
 - a) A complaint about fasting (18-20)

The complaint of John’s disciples as well as the Pharisees about Jesus refusing to lead His disciples to fast represents their misunderstanding about the presence of Christ. Like a bridegroom at a wedding, Jesus embodies the joy that people in His kingdom experience.

b) Jesus' reason for rejoicing (21-22)

That kind of joy comes only when we have a relationship with Him. It can't be patched on to religious duties. Likewise, it can't be contained in rigid, lifeless religious rituals. Kingdom people experience new life in Christ.

3. The Kingdom includes people who surrender to the Lord (23-28).

a) The laws about the Sabbath (23-24)

The Pharisees couldn't understand why Jesus didn't direct His disciples to obey the Sabbath laws. Their insistence exhibits the inclination to reduce a relationship with God to nothing more than keeping religious rules that we have fashioned ourselves.

b) The Lord of the Sabbath (25-28)

Jesus clarified the issue by reminding the Pharisees of His authority over the Sabbath day.

The Sabbath day gives us an opportunity to rest and worship Him. He never intended for the Sabbath day to replace Him as the object of our devotion.

Conclusion

Jesus' instruction assures you that you have a place in God's kingdom through faith in Him. That's where you belong. That's where you are suited to live. Don't convince yourself otherwise. Instead, follow Him and be saved. If you're a believer, thank Him for including you in the kingdom of God, and make your growth in Him a priority.

Argile Smith serves as the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Biloxi, Mississippi. A graduate of William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD), he has also served as a theological educator and Baptist college administrator. He and his wife, Connie, have three grown sons, three remarkable daughters-in-law, and four fairly perfect grandchildren.