



THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



## Sermon Series Notes

### “The New Covenant, Part 2” (Mark 2:18-27)

Danny Hodges - NT3666

The song “Gimme that old time religion.” One of the lines is “It was good for the Hebrew children,” and a second “It will do when I am dyin.” If the singer is referring to the Law God gave to Moses, the song is very incorrect and misleading. But that is a song. Here we are dealing with the Word of God, so it will behoove us to get it right.

Read Mark 2:18-27, then summarize last weekend. There has been and will continue to be controversy between Jesus, His disciples, and the religious establishment of the day. Last week we dealt with two controversial situations, why Jesus’ disciples are not fasting like John’s disciples and the Pharisees, and why Jesus’ disciples violated the Sabbath by picking kernels of grain to eat on the Sabbath. We dealt with the second one first last weekend, and what it boiled down to is that God ordained the violation of the Sabbath, and Jesus stating that he had authority to authorize such a violation. We looked at other violations of the Law that were allowed by God. He did this because those violations are messages of grace, mercy, and the new covenant that was instituted when Christ died on the cross. The new covenant was revealed in the old covenant.

Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, **to which the Law and the prophets testify**. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe...

Now, the second controversy, the issue of why Jesus’ disciples are not fasting. Jesus is a bridegroom who has come to seek out a bride, so it is not a time to fast, but to feast, especially if you understand the love story behind this particular bridegroom, and the bride he seeks. The story of Jesus is that of an unlikely marriage between the most perfect bridegroom and the most unlovely bride. We saw that illustrated clearly last weekend through the life and message of the prophet Hosea.

This week we especially want to deal with exactly what Jesus means by his illustration aids in vv.21-22. These verses are meant to illustrate the folly of attempting to mix the old with the new, i.e., the old covenant and with the new covenant.

I cannot think of a better book in the NT to help us in our understanding than Hebrews. Turn to Hebrews chapter 8.

Hebrews is written to a Jewish audience with the intent of proving that the new covenant instituted by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross is superior in every way to the covenant of law received by Moses. The covenant of law was mediated by angels (Gal.3:19), so the writer in chapter one quotes 7 OT passages proving that Jesus, the sole mediator of the new covenant, is greater than the angels. Chapter three shows

that Jesus is greater than Moses. Then there is a quite lengthy section telling us that Jesus is our great high priest after the order of Melchizedek, that mysterious priest/king who met Abraham after the defeat of the kings who had kidnapped his nephew Lot. Melchizedek was King of Salem (peace) & King of Righteousness. He brings out bread and wine for Abraham, he blesses Abraham, and Abraham gives him a tenth of all the spoils from the victory. He is without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life. He is an eternal priest/king. Psalm 110:4 prophesied that Messiah (Jesus) is a priest in the order of Melchizedek. This of course means that Jesus is greater than Abraham, and greater than any of the priests under the covenant of Law. One interesting note is that under the law one could not be both a priest and a king, another unique attribute of Jesus Christ.

Read Hebrews 8:7. What was “wrong” with the old covenant?

The “wrongness” is not in the old covenant’s morality, but rather its inability/insufficiency. See Rom.7:14.

Romans 8:3-4 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us...

#### The Old Covenant (Law)

- Could never declare us righteous (Rom.3:20)
- Regular reminder of sin (Heb.10:3)
- Guilty conscience (Heb.10:2)
- External regulations (Heb.9:10; circumcision, kosher diet, etc.)
- Shadows of greater realities (Heb.8:5; Col.2:16-17).
  - Passover (Jesus the Passover Lamb, I Cor.5:7b); Firstfruits (Christ, the firstfruits, I Cor.15:20); Unleavened Bread (purging of sin/purity, I Cor.5:8); Tabernacles (He is our shelter as we wander in the wilderness of this world); Day of Atonement (He is our atonement!). New Moon Celebrations connected with agriculture (fruitfulness); Sabbath Days (Rest, Trust, Heb.4:10).
- Inferior priests (Heb.7:26-28)
  - Had to offer sacrifices for their own sins
  - Never completed their mission (Heb.10:11-12)
- Inferior sacrifices (Heb.10:3, 11)
- Exclusive
  - Some had greater privileges than others (Priests, Levites, Jews, Gentiles, Women).
  - See power point of Herod’s Temple and show the exclusiveness
  - Lepers, eunuchs, tax collectors and sinners, etc.
- Temporary (Heb.7:18-19; 8:13 (“vanish away”); Rom.10:4)
- Based on works (Rom.10:5; Gal.3:12)

#### The New Covenant (Mercy, Grace)

- Righteousness of God (II Cor.5:21)

- Regular reminder of righteousness (Phil.3:9; Rom.7:14-8:4a)
- Clear conscience, peace with God (Heb.10:22; Rom.5:1)
- Internal regeneration by the Holy Spirit (Heb.8:10a; Titus 3:5)
  - Dr. Christian Barnard was the first surgeon to ever perform a heart transplant. Once he asked a patient, Dr. Philip Blaiberg, “Do you want to see your old heart?” The next evening Dr. Barnard brought in a glass container with Dr. Blaiberg’s old heart. For a moment there was stunned silence, he was the first man in history to hold his own heart in his hands. For ten minutes he pried Dr. Barnard with technical questions. Then he turned to take a final look at the contents of the container and said, “So this is my old heart that caused me so much trouble.”
- Reality is Christ
- Perfect priest (Heb.7:26)
- Perfect sacrifice (Heb.10:12-14)
- Inclusive (Heb.8:10b-11; Eph.2:11-13)
  - Red, yellow, black, white, rich poor, etc. etc. The curtain in the temple torn top to bottom when Jesus died on the cross. If that does not signify something new, I don’t know what does. There is no more need for a high priest to go in for the people and offer a sacrifice for man’s sin, because Jesus has already offered the eternal sacrifice for man’s sin...
- Eternal (Heb.13:20-21)
- Based on faith (Romans 1:17)

The purpose of the law (Rom.3:20; Gal.3:19-25; Gen.15:1-20)

The covenant was ratified by cutting the sacrifice into two halves, after which each party entering into the covenant would walk between the halves. The significance of this was the commitment on each party to hold up their end of the bargain. If they did not, the idea was that they should become like the sacrifice. They took covenants very seriously!

When God ratified the covenant with Abraham, Abraham was in a deep sleep. So God was in essence saying, the fulfillment of my promise is completely dependent upon me, and the only thing Abraham could do was believe, trust. And so we see in the working out of the gospel the Father’s plan to send His one and only Son to the cross, Jesus’ obedience to the Father, & the Holy Spirit’s testimony to the truth that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Read Romans 11:32-36

Why is it so important to not mix the old covenant with the new covenant?

- Doctrinal Error (Acts 15:1ff)
- Lead people astray
- Fall from grace/miss the gospel (Galatians 5:1-4)
- Lose the blessings of the new covenant (Acts 15:10; Gal.3:3; 4:9-11; 5:1).

There are movements today that seek to put us back under the covenant of Law. One of these is called “The Hebrew Roots Movement,” The bottom line of the teaching is the belief that we are grafted into

Israel, and as a result we must assume Jewish customs if we are going to mature spiritually and be pleasing to God.

Another movement I have very recently had to confront is led by a man who calls himself Nachaalah ha Malakwath. The group is called The Gathering of Christ Church.

Why did Paul continue to take part in OT feasts and customs? See I Cor.9:19-23.

Peter was encouraged to violate the OT Law (Acts 10), and right after this he was sent to the home of Cornelius the centurion. There he witnessed the Lord forgive/purify a room full of uncircumcised Gentiles through faith in Jesus, apart from any kind of observance of the law.

Completely accepting and living out the implications of the new covenant was very difficult for Jewish Christians, and it still is for many today.

The new covenant is not really new (Gal.3:15-18)

A biblical response to the truth/benefits of the new covenant

- Offer ourselves to the Lord
  - Rom.12:1...I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Praise
  - Heb.13:15...let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise...
- Do good, share
  - Heb.13:16...do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- Give thanks
  - Col.2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- Sing
  - Eph.5:19-20 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father...
  - Col.3:15-16