

Gospel of Mark
Lesson 12 “Paradigm Shift”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on “The Gospel of Mark” this morning.

A. Review - This series comes from **Galatians 2:20**. It’s now Christ living in us so in order for us to understand how He lives in us, it’s helpful to study how He lived when on the earth 2,000 years ago.

B. The last time we were in **Mark**, we studied the calling of Matthew and saw that Jesus called Matthew (a man from the tribe of Levi who should have known the word) while he was sitting in a tax office working for the Romans. Matthew was living a life of rebellion and was a traitor. He wasn’t seeking God, rather God was seeking him.

1. This is a paradigm shift for many people. A paradigm is a framework for how we look at things. Many of us have a paradigm that we must seek God in order to get Him to respond, but the proper viewpoint is it is God who always has been seeking us. Our seeking is a simply a response to His calling.

2. The next thing we saw is Matthew took Jesus back to his house to hang out with his friends. They were all sinners and tax collectors. Jesus came, which offended the religious Pharisees. This again was a new paradigm because we learn that after God calls us and we go back to some of our old sinful habits, He comes with us (not to leave us in them, but to transform us). **The big idea is He won’t leave us even if we haven’t transformed yet.**

II. Paradigm Shift - Today as we close out **Mark 2**, we are going to study Jesus’s teaching that explains this paradigm shift and reveals the true heart of God.

A. **Mark 2:18-28**

1. **Verses 18-20** Why do we fast? To draw close to God (not to get Him to move). Jesus’s point is it’s unnecessary to fast when God is there in the flesh. It’s a religious ritual that misses the point. Ex: Creflo Dollar fasting story.

2. **Verses 21-22** This is all a comparison of the New and Old Covenant. The same way we can’t sow unshrunk cloth on an old garment, we cannot mix law and grace. Ex: Oil and water don’t mix. Law and grace don’t mix.

a. Jesus didn’t come to patch up the holes in the Old Covenant. He came to replace.

b. This is why we must get a new wineskin (way of thinking) to sustain any new move of the Holy Spirit. Ex: Healing

3. **Verses 23-28** In this story, Jesus commended David for doing for lying and breaking the law and eating the showbread.

- a. This really bothered me for years because David lied to the high priest, Abimelech, about why he was there (said he was on the king's business when he was running from the king). This ultimately got the high priest killed (David was partly at fault). The high priest then gave David and his men the showbread (presence bread) to eat, which was only to be eaten by the priests. This could have been punishable by death under the law.
- b. This story bothered me because it seems this made the Bible inconsistent. Like "Would the real God please stand up."
 - i. It wasn't though. Key verse: **1 Samuel 21:6** - this wasn't the hot presence bread for the priests, but the leftovers.
 - ii. David saw beyond the symbolism of the shewbread to the greater reality it pointed. **The showbread represented the presence of God being with us and in us. It also represented His mercy that He would dwell with sinful humans..**
- c. Why? God desires mercy and not sacrifice. That's the heart of God. Also, He's the Lord of the Sabbath (rest). We can't have true rest if we think God is always about to whack us over something we've done wrong.
- d. It's not that the law was invalid. It was completely valid, but it was always a shadow that pointed us to a greater reality. **Colossians 2:16-17. In this story, Jesus was standing there in the flesh so there was no point in going back under an inferior reality (shadow illustration).**

B. What this means to us?

- 1. Showbread - próthesis, setting forth, i.e. (figuratively) proposal (intention); specially, the show-bread (in the Temple) as exposed before God:—purpose, shew(-bread).
- 2. Sometimes this word is translated presence bread and other times its translated purpose. This means God's purpose for our life isn't just a specific job, mate, or city to live in...His purpose is the presence of God.
 - a. This also means whatever state you find yourself in (including if you blew it really bad), God can manifest His presence right now and bring you into the purpose of God.
 - b. **Romans 8:28** and **2 Samuel 12:24-25** David called Solomon the beloved of the Lord even though he was the byproduct of an initially illegitimate relationship. God made him the richest and wisest king who ever lived, he wrote 3 books of the Bible, and he is in the lineage of Jesus. **And had David obeyed, Solomon would have never been born.**

III. Conclusion - No matter what we've done or haven't done, God can rewrite our past if we will put our faith in His grace. No matter what we've been taught, this is a paradigm shift we all need to embrace if we want to experience God's purpose for our lives.

