

Political point scoring.....Don't you hate it !!!.....And with an election.....
And the worst thing is.....IT's all so negative

- **But it's always been the same**

Infact.....In the section of Mark's.....**we find five examples**.....of how Jesus...
Was constantly attacked by His political opponents

By religious leaders.....who saw Jesus as a threat

- **They** had their backs to the wall.....The opinion polls were not going their way
So they sought to destroy His standing.....through the questions they threw.....

Example One: 2:1-12

It's the beautiful story.....paralysed man whose friends brought him.....and lowered..

What wonderful friendship we see here....**Indeed**....the NIV rendering of v3(see on screen)
..suggests that there was more than the four.....

The big thing that Mark wants us to see....is that this is a story of Faith

Not just in Jesus as some healer

But in this carpenter cum preacher from.....**As being the Christ**....the Son of God

And Jesus is acting most like the Christ.....like the Son...When He is forgiving....Renewing
That's why v5 tells us

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son(child), your sins are forgiven.’”

- **We are not told how the sick man**....friends.....reacted.....

I Sense....friends...disappointment

But I'm sure the man felt that forgiveness.....

And the accompanying knowledge that he was now pure before God.....overwhelmed him

- **WHAT** we do know however....**is the** reaction.....of the opposition: v6—7..

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*“Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,
‘Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?’”*

Here is the first of the 5 questions

They just thought it.....but Jesus read their minds

And of course they were right.....**Only** God can forgive sins....every Jew knew that
But Jesus is the Christ....the Son of God.....He has no fear of such questions

Indeedhe proclaims their question to.....

And then.....basically says.....→

If I am wrong in forgiving.....then there is no way God will allow me to heal

But if by my word this man is healed.....**Then it proves that I have power to forgive**

THAT I AM GOD

- **Their second question was brought on.....by calling of Levi....or Matthew**

Jesus' opposition.....no time for Matthew and his kind

They were grouped with "sinners"

Their belief was.....the holier a person was.....the more they avoided...

Conversely.....the more they mixed with.....the less holy they showed themselves

If Jesus was truly the holy Christ.....He would never come within co-ee of such

- **So their question.....spoken loud enough for all to hear was: v16**

"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus' answer reveals.....the huge gap between their thinking and his...v17

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

WHILE the Pharisees may have looked down on sinners, Jesus looked for them.
(Jeanette's story....)

- **The third question was not from the Pharisees but from others...v18**

"How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

The Pharisees were confident...that their fasting twice a week.....set them apart

Their followers saw this.....and would also fast.....showing their respect....teachers

So if Jesus was such a great teacher....How come He didn't have.....same reaction from
Or perhaps.....even demand it

- **Think for a moment how wonderful Jesus' answer is**

The fasting they were talking about.....was akin to being sad.....To mourning

Because Jesus is the promised Christ.....He is the heavenly bridegroom

There is a spontaneous joy....that marks those who truly recognize Him for who He is

But more than that says Jesus.....this new relationship with God that I bring

..is so different to the relationship bound by law

that the old structures....the old wine skin.....could not contain it.....**IT** would burst...apart

..and that is just so true

- **We have** a glorious freedom in our relationship with the Father....

We don't have to keep lots of rules.....but we choose to please Him

And this comes out in the fourth question.....

Where the Pharisees accuse the disciples of harvesting on the sabbath.....simply because

3:24 The Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

- **If something as small**....as harmless as that.....MAN's own interpretation of God's law

can seriously destroy ...relationship with

What hope has anyone got ????

Jesus the Christ, Son of God.....He is Lord of the Sabbath.....

Lord over all the rules.....For He has made it possible....for all sinners to come...

It is after that statement.....that we find the final example of the conflict....that rose against Jesus

But this time...the question is asked by Jesus.....

And it is here....in the synagogue.....on the Sabbath day....**that we sense** the frustration of ...

His opponents are present once again.....They are watching Him closely

They want to see if He would break one of their petty rules
If He would heal this man.....This suffering man with the withered hand on

And Jesus knows what they are about:

- **So He asks the fifth question:**

*3:4 "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"
But they remained silent.*

The answer is obvious.....to everyone.....except these people who refuse to see.....

And note carefully Jesus' reaction in 3:5

*He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed (being greatly grieved)
at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."*

- **These people deliberately choose to reject.....**despite all the evidence.....
supported His claim.....→ To be the promised Messiah....the Son of God
And it grieved Jesus.....because **He knew what such a rejection would mean for them**

- **But it also made Him angry**

He saw their stubborn hearts.....The way they yearned for Him to fail.....

He saw their hypocrisy.....These who complained about Him healing on...
would themselves.....on that same Sabbath.....plot His death

And His compassion for them.....was seasoned.....by anger because of their stubbornness

- **And surely...this strong reaction of Jesus**....coming at the end ...of these times of conflict
reveals to us what Jesus wants from His church today

**And its not a lot of rules and regulations
It's not worship that's hindered by do's and don'ts**

- **Instead it's a strong faith in Him** as the powerful Son of God.....who can forgive
Who can heal our relationship with the Father and....one another

It's a great joy in His presence.....The bridegroom in our midst

And especially.....It's a willingness to so value people....That whoever they are

We are constantly reaching out to them.....with the message of God's love

