

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

2, As the Gospel source being uniquely the Son of God, Jesus the Son of Man has authority on earth

Part 2D

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Introduction: Throughout the Bible in O.T and N.T., covenant marriage is used as a progressively revealed motif of the most intimately real relationship between the Creator-God as LORD and Savior and His redeemed people. This covenant marriage motif reaches its greatest celebration in application of Jesus Christ as the Royal Bridegroom and the Church as His purified and beautified Bride. Caution is needed against elaborating and reading back into human marriage from the Church as the Bride of Christ motif. Human marriage is an earth-bound creation ordinance and not a sacrament, therefore according to Scripture a Christian spouse does not have redemptive powers through marriage but may have a sanctifying presence, et al.

2:18-22, the Son of Man has authority/power on earth to redirect celebrating/rejoicing and fasting/sorrowing anticipating the New Covenant Gospel, e.g. celebrated as the Messianic Wedding Feast.

v. 18, Questions about religious fasting need heavenly answers on earth.

- All fasting is not religious fasting, e.g. some fasting may be for health/medical reasons, but some fasting is for false spiritual claims associated with philosophical/religious dualism...
- All religious fasting is not valid as New Covenant Gospel fasting, e.g. the only O.T. required fast was on the Day of Atonement, e.g. the disciples of John the Baptizer and the disciples of the Pharisees had conflicting motivations for fasting...
- Valid New Covenant Gospel fasting is not a means of grace, but an act of devotion in connection with the Holy Spirit's intercession in agreement with the Word and will of the Heavenly Father...

**"The reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God: beside religious oaths, vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon special occasions, which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner." WCF Chapter 21, sect. 5*

v. 19, Celebrating God's promised salvation by His appointed means of grace through personal faith and public worship is greater than fasting.

- By normal and commonly accepted religious & social customs a wedding is not a time for fasting...

- When Jesus was asked why His disciples did not fast (v. 18), by answer He identifies Himself as the Messianic Bridegroom...
- Jesus emphasizes His presence as the Messianic Bridegroom among friends, solitary fasting may still be observed, e.g. Jesus' teaching cf. St. Matthew 6:16-18...

**In the context of this teaching, Jesus anticipates the New Covenant fulfillment and reconciliation with the better presence of the Holy Spirit by a better public worship with better covenantal signs and seals so that celebrating the Lord's Supper is better and more effectual than fasting...*

v. 20, Valid New Covenant Gospel fasting is redirected to times of spiritual distress of which the greatest was Christ's passion after the institution of the Lord's Supper up to His voluntary death on the cross.

- Jesus predicts days [no Gk. article] of spiritual distress concerning His being subjected to a forceful removal...
[taken away, cf. v. 21, Gk. *aparche*, aorist—completed action, passive voice—subject being acted upon, subjunctive mood—expectation application from verb *apairo*...]
- Jesus bookends His prediction restating “**days**” in order not to confuse “**those days**” of fasting with His coming resurrection and ascension...

**At the original institution of the Lord's Supper, Jesus pledged a fast and promised to rejoin the supper among His friends in the New Kingdom of God (cf. Mark 14:25, et al.) in a new sacramental and not old literal way...*

vv. 21-22, With two home-spun truisms (parables cf. Luke 5:36), Jesus authorizes faith and worship on earth in terms of New Covenant fulfillment /reconciliation for gain not loss.

- The New Covenant Gospel is not religious patch-work of adding man-made novelties onto the worn out fabric of the Old Covenant (Hebrews 1:11-12//8:13, et al.), all such attempts will inevitably rip apart...
[σχίσμα, schism/skhis'-mah, a split or gap (“schism”), literally or figuratively: - division, rent, schism.]
- The New Covenant Gospel is not a loss from the Old Covenant but the new and better wine requiring new wineskins: “Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper: which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity, and less outward glory, yet, in them, it is held forth in more fullness, evidence and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the new testament.” WCF chapter 8 section 6

**The New Covenant Gospel breaks the fast days of Jesus death and by His resurrection gives new robes of Christ's righteousness as wedding garments and the new wine of the Holy Spirit's new harvest from Jesus the Vine of Life in the new wineskins as the fulfilled and reconciled ways of personal belief and public worship...*

