

“Jesus, Man of Action”

Mark 2:13 - 3:6

“Have you never read what David did when he was in need and became hungry, he and his companions: how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he gave it also to those who were with him?” And He was saying to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Consequently, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:25-28, NAS

The Outline

2. Initial Phase of the Galilean Ministry, 1:14 - 3:6
 - A. Entrance into Galilee, 1:14 - 1:15
 - B. The call to become fishers of men, 1:16 - 1:20
 - C. A new teaching - with authority, 1:21 - 28
 - D. The healing of Peter’s mother-in-law, 1:29 - 1:31
 - E. The sick healed at evening, 1:32 - 1:34
 - F. The decision to leave Capernaum, 1:35 - 1:39
 - G. The cleansing of a leper, 1:40 - 1:45
 - H. Conflict in Galilee, 2:1 - 3:6

The Words

Tax Collector - τελώνης - one who collects taxes for the government - Since Jews who farmed the taxes for the Romans (that is to say, who paid Roman authorities for the privilege of collecting taxes) were considered traitors to their own people, the term τελώνης has strongly negative connotations in the New Testament. In any translation of the Gospels it may be especially important to have an adequate marginal note designed to explain the basis for the hostility which many people had toward tax collectors.

Sinner - ἁμαρτωλός - a person who customarily sins: *sinner, outcast*. In contexts such as Mark 2:17, Matthew 9:10, Luke 15:2, etc.,

ἁμαρτωλός may refer to persons who were irreligious in the sense of having no concern for observing the details of the Law. Such people were often treated as social outcasts.

Scribe - γραμματεύς - a recognized expert in Jewish law (including both canonical and traditional laws and regulations) - “one who is learned in the Law, expert in the Law” or “... Law of Moses.” Example: “How can the experts of the Law say that the Messiah will be the descendant of David?” Mark 12:35.

Pharisee - Φαρισαῖος - a member of an important religious and political Jewish party at the time of Jesus and the apostles. The Pharisees constituted a significantly larger group than the Sadducees, and differed with them on certain doctrines and patterns of behavior. The Pharisees were strict and jealous adherents to the laws of the Old Testament and to numerous additional traditions.

Fast - νηστεύω - to go without food for a set time as a religious duty - “to fast, fasting.” Examples: “But your disciples do not fast at all” Matthew 9:14; “day and night she worshiped, fasting and praying” Luke 2:37.

Sabbath - σάββατον - strictly, *a ceasing from labor, rest*: (1) used for the seventh day of the week (Saturday) (Matthew 12:1, 2); (2) the sacred festival held each week on the seventh day, beginning with sundown on Friday evening and ending at sundown on Saturday evening (John 19:31). Note also the use of *a Sabbath day’s journey*, i.e. 2000 cubits or paces, about 800 meters, denoting the distance the traditional law allowed a Jew to travel on the Sabbath (Acts 1:12).

Lawful - ἔξεστι - (1) denoting that there are no hindrances to an action or that the opportunity for it occurs: *it is possible*. (Acts 2:29); (2) predominantly as denoting that an action is not prevented by a higher court or by law: *it is permitted, it is lawful, it may be done* (Mark 10:2).

Herodians - Ἡρωδιανοί - the political followers and adherents to Herod the Great and his family - “the followers of Herod, Herodians.” Example: “They sent to him their disciples together with the followers of Herod.” Matthew 22:16.