NEW WINESKINS

Mark 2:18-3:6 Lesson 4

Key Verse 2:22

1. Where were they? (2:15) What was the point of comparing Jesus’ disciples to John’s and the Pharisees’? (18b) Look at Jesus’ parable (19-20). Who do the bridegroom and guests represent, and what does this tell us about Christian life?

2. Look at Jesus’ next parable (21-22). Why is it futile to sew an unshrunk patch of cloth on an old garment? What was Jesus’ point here? Similarly, why is it unwise to pour new wine into old wineskins? What does the new wine represent? Old wineskins? What direction did this give his ministry?

3. On the Sabbath, what did the disciples begin to do? (23) How did the Pharisees respond, and why? (24) What event does Jesus remind them of? (25-26) How does Jesus define the Sabbath? (27a) Who is “Lord” of it? (27b) How should we view the Sabbath?

4. Who was at the synagogue? (3:1) Think about what it must have been like to have that hand. How did some view the situation? (2) What does Jesus tell this man to do? (3) What does he ask them, and how do they respond? (4) Notice how Jesus is described (5a). What does Jesus do on the Sabbath? (5b) What was their response? (6)

5. From this study, what can we learn about the Sabbath, about legalism and about Jesus? Look again at verse 22. What are the implications of new wine being poured into us? How can we remain as new wineskins?