

WHY, JESUS

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Imagine what it must have been like in first-century Israel when a revolutionary Rabbi came out of the Galilee doing and saying things that raised questions. Jesus was, at the same time, inspirational, powerful, and, in a sense, confusing. Why? Because He was bursting paradigms of thought that had been ingrained since the establishment of Moses's law. This was particularly true at the outset of Jesus's ministry. People were just trying to figure Him out—and they often did that by asking questions. As a result, four times in Mark 2 people were prompted to ask why Jesus behaved the way He did.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When someone seems to be pretty full of themselves, it's not uncommon for them to be challenged by the words, "Who do you think you are?" or perhaps, "What gives you the right to _____?" When have you experienced situations where the thought of asking those questions has entered your mind?
- In every culture there is some kind of caste system—the haves vs. the have-nots, the good vs. the bad, the in vs. the out. Even in first-century Israel, the social structure was defined by the righteous vs. the sinners and the law-keepers vs. the lawbreakers. How did Jesus break down these attitudes by including outsiders?
- When you see an ad for something, and it is splashed with the word new, what is it trying to tell you? The problem with using the word new is that it can be confusing. It isn't always immediately understood. In Mark 2, Jesus was doing something new. How was He causing the people to be confused?
- The Sabbath was sacred to Judaism, but Jesus did so many things on the Sabbath that it appeared He was baiting the religious leaders into harsh responses. Does that seem legitimate to you? Why might Jesus bait them this way?



CHALLENGE

Read Mark 2. We live in a culture that often questions the legitimacy of the claims of Christ. How would you respond to the kinds of questions raised in Mark 2? How can you prepare for such challenges to your decision to trust Jesus?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

And hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"
(Mark 2:17 NASB).



PRAYER

Heavenly Father, sometimes life can be confusing—and it can be easy to direct that confusion at You and Your Son. Help me to grow in my confidence in You, so that my question marks may be replaced by exclamation points.