# Mark's Gospel—Jesus' True Identity Reveals the Magnitude of His Sacrifice

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Mark 2:18-22

# A Time to Feast, and a Time to Fast

Jesus Is the Bridegroom of His People.

1. The Bridegroom Has Come to Prepare His Bride (19-20).

2. The People Mistake Jesus for One of the Ushers (18).

3. The Wedding Will Be Soon—We Must Get Ready (21-22)!

Conclusion: Traditions can help us remember important realities, but unfortunately, they can also supplant the very thing(s) they are meant to highlight. Fasting is a God-ordained way of grieving over our sin and sharpening our minds as we seek God's guidance. Feasting is also a means for our benefit that God has appointed to aid our celebration of His many blessings. In this passage of Scripture, we see not only a confusion over which is appropriate in their setting, but more importantly the reality of Jesus' position as the Bridegroom who has the authority to direct which is right and when. How does understanding Jesus as our Bridegroom help us to follow Him in both grief and celebration?

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

### **Romans 12:9-15**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

#### First Peter 1:3-9

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.