

## Discover: Who Was Jesus?

Mark 2:18-20

(Black Bibles page 837; Children's Bibles page 1214)

*We begin our series on the Gospels, entitled, "Jesus for Skeptics, Beginners, and Strugglers." This is the first of sixteen messages.*

A series welcome to...

- Skeptics
- Beginners
- Strugglers

Sermon intro: *Discover: Who was Jesus?*

**For Skeptics:** "Why would I think Jesus existed?"

<sup>18</sup> Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" <sup>19</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. <sup>20</sup> The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. [Mark 2:18-20]

- Quick Summary: "When the bridegroom, I, am with my disciples, it's not appropriate for them to fast. For you don't fast at a wedding reception, but you celebrate and enjoy the event. But I will be taken away in the future, however, and then fasting will become appropriate."

**For Beginners:** Can you explain fasting, John, and the Pharisees?

Why this passage to start our series? It's very early in Mark, and yet it highlights themes we'll see again and again:

(1) History

- Two phases at least: when Jesus is here, and when he is taken away.

(2) Identity

- Fasting to God isn't appropriate when Jesus is here? Who does he think he is?

(3) Mystery

- The bridegroom will be taken away? To where? When? What does that phrase mean?

**For Strugglers:** *When Jesus is around, it's a party.* (And that's the believer's future.)

Ending thoughts on *fasting*

### Final Thoughts and Applications

1. Discovering who Jesus was: how does this matter? Can you name one thing about your day today that was impacted by who you think Jesus was/is?
2. Do you think Jesus is worth taking time to investigate/discover? Is your conviction about this reflected in your schedule / time commitments?
3. If you are a believer, when is the last time you fasted? What role do you think that practice should play in the Christian life? (consider: Matthew 4:2; 6:16-18; Acts 13:1-3, 14:23; Isaiah 58)