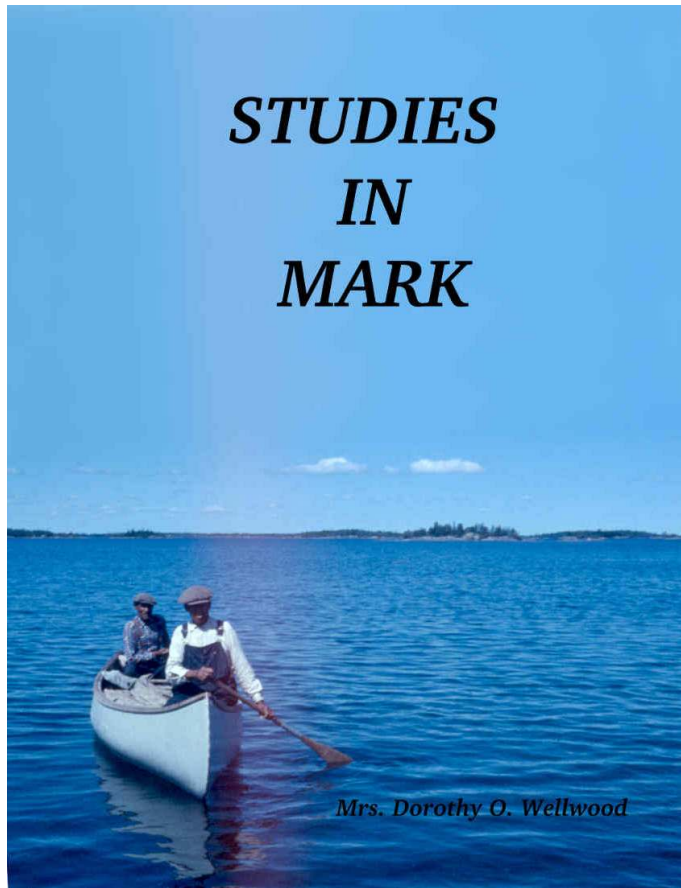


***STUDIES
IN
MARK***



Mrs. Dorothy O. Wellwood

LESSON 7

MARK 2:18-22

FASTING

When a Christian does not eat for a time so he can pray and study God's Word better, he is fasting. He is not feeding his body; he is feeding his spirit.

Examples of fasting are:

Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Members of the early church (Acts 13:2)

Anna (Luke 2:37)

Paul (2 Corinthians 11:27; Acts 14:23)

One time when the disciples could not cast out a demon, Jesus told them they needed to fast and pray, Mark 9:29.

A disciple is a follower of a teacher. Jesus was the teacher. The followers of Jesus were the disciples.

1. In Mark 2:18, what people were fasting?
 - a.
 - b.
2. What question did these people ask Jesus? (verse 18)
3. How did Jesus answer them? (verse 19)
4. Who is the bridegroom? (verse 19,20)



Jesus is called the Bridegroom. The Church is called the

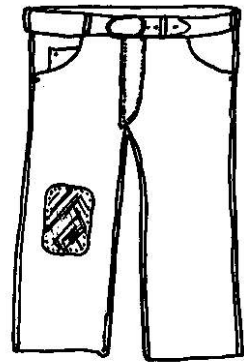
Bride of Christ. The Church is made up of all true believers in Christ. These believers have been born again. By faith the believers have been washed from their sins in Jesus' blood.

Jesus is not talking about United, or Baptist, or Pentecostal, or Anglican or Catholic, when He says the Church. He is talking about all true believers in Him.

NEW AND OLD CLOTH (Mark 2:21,22)

In verse 21 Jesus says, *"No man sews a piece of new cloth on an old garment."*

1. When your little boy tears a hole in the knee of his old pants, do you go to town and get a new piece of cloth to make a patch?
2. Why would this not be a good idea?



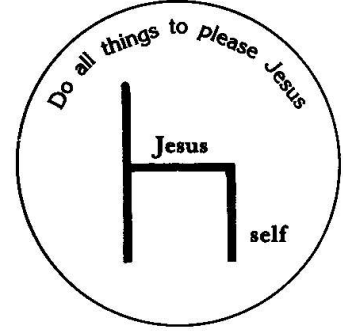
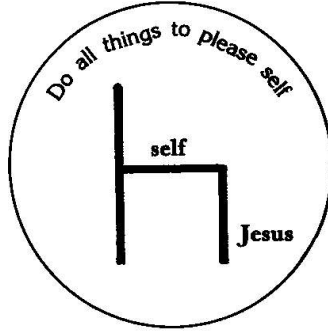
Everyone that Jesus was talking to knew about patching clothes.

You know that if you sew strong new cloth on old clothes, the next time the boy catches the knee on a nail, the new cloth will hold, but the old cloth will tear away around it, and the hole will be bigger than ever.

The lesson Jesus taught the scribes and Pharisees was that it was no good to try to patch up their old lives. If they tried to put a good life on top of an old sinful life, it would be worse in the end. What they needed was a new clean life. Then their lives would be right, inside and outside.

NEW AND OLD BOTTLES

In Bible times people made bottles out of the skins of animals. Some skin bottles were used for water. Some skin bottles were used for wine. In verse 22, it says that nobody put new wine (grape juice) into old bottles.



1. What would happen if they did?
2. They were to put new wine into _____ bottles.

This little story tells the same thing as the one about sewing new cloth on old clothes. The old skin bottles and the old cloth are like the old life we lived before we were Christians. We cannot live a Christian life that pleases God, and live the old life of sin at the same time. The new life and the old sinful life do not go together. When Jesus comes into our hearts and makes them clean, then we are ready to live the new life He gives us.

STUDIES IN MARK by Dorothy O. Wellwood.

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