

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today's topic: **CONTROVERSIES**.

1. Controversy at the healing of the paralytic

- a) Mark 2:1-12 What impresses you the most as you hear this story?
- b) What does this story tell us about Jesus?
- c) What are your thoughts about the reactions of those present? (See v.7 and v.12)

2. Controversial selection of a disciple

- a) Mark 2:13-14 What was unusual about the call of Jesus to Matthew Levi?
- b) Mark 2:15-17 What are your thoughts about the celebration at Matthew Levi's house and the reactions of those present?
- c) What other stories in the ministry of Jesus remind us that He loves sinners and came to save them?

3. Controversy over fasting

- a) Mark 2:18 What is the purpose of fasting in connection with our relationship with God?
- b) Why were the disciples of Jesus not fasting? Mark 2:19
- c) What did Jesus teach about fasting for His followers? Mark 2:20, Matthew 6:16-18
- d) What lessons have you learned in times of fasting?

4. Controversy over conduct on the Sabbath

- a) Mark 2:23-28 What important truth did Jesus share about Sabbath in His interaction with the Pharisees?
- b) Mark 3:1-5 How did Jesus react to the trap the religious leaders had set for Him regarding Sabbath observance?
- c) Mark 3:6 What are your thoughts about the reaction of the Pharisees having witnesses this healing miracle by Jesus?
- d) When did you come to realize that the Sabbath was a time for blessing and healing? (Matthew 12:10-12)

5. Controversy over the ministry of Jesus

- a) Mark 3:20-21 According to this passage, who tried to restrict the ministry of Jesus? (See also Mark 3:31-35)
- b) Share a time when your family members were not supportive of your ministry in the name of Jesus.
- c) What critical explanation did the scribes and Pharisees give for the miraculous works Jesus performed? Mark 3:22 (See also Matthew 9:32-34)
- d) What are your thoughts about the reaction of Jesus to their accusation? Mark 3:23-27
- e) Why is it an unforgivable sin to call a manifestation of God's power and love a work of Satan? Mark 3:28-29 (See also John 16:13, Psalm 51:10-11)
- f) What lessons can we learn from Jesus about dealing with controversy?

