



#MARKED 

PART I



Wk 1 Point: The marks on your past can't keep you from being used by God.

Wk 2 Point: You are Marked as righteous because of your faith.

Don't forget to make the announcements to your group this week!

Discussion Generators

- What stood out to you from the first two weeks of the Marked point series? (they can be funny, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- Read Romans 8:1&2.** So we learned a little about this big word "condemnation" in week 1. What is condemnation? ***If there is no response...***What does it mean to condemn or be condemned?
- Let's spend some time talking about condemning or judging others. I'm going to ask some very pointed and potentially awkward questions so I want to say up front that I'm looking for us all to be transparent and honest while being sensitive at the same time. Does everyone understand what I'm asking?
- What kind of things that people do or personality traits that others have do you personally get really irritated with or judgmental/ condemning of? (***Leaders- Remember you may need to kick this off and try to get as many people to answer without pushing too hard.***)
- Let's try a quick exercise. I'm going to name off words and personality traits one at a time and stop and ask you to respond with what your first thought are when you hear them. Ready?
 - Cheater – Rich – Poor - Welfare – Divorce – Man – Woman
 - Manager - Shift Worker – CEO – Unemployed - Egotistical
 - Gay/Lesbian – Drunk/druggie – Tattooed – Nerd – Racist
 - African American - Pastor /elder - Christian – Baptist - Methodist
 - Lutheran – Catholic - Atheist – Buddhist – Arab - Jew – Russian
 - Porn addict – Stripper/prostitute – Thief - Murderer – Short fused
 - Prissy – Attractive – Preppy - Grunge – Skateboarder – Goth
 - Citified – Redneck – Moody – Judgmental

•Why do you think it is so easy for us to judge and condemn others? Do you think the way we judge/condemn others makes it hard for us to not understand and accept God's forgiveness of us when we accept him? Why or why not?

•Often times, we are so good at judging and condemning others that when it comes to ourselves we do the same and we assume that God does the same. What are some of the marks on your past that you think are keeping you from being used by God?

•**Read John 21:15-19.** What happened in Peter's past prior to this conversation with Jesus? What can we learn from Peter's past in how God can or can't use us?

•How do you think we should handle the marks from our past? **Read II Corinthians 1:3-5.** What is beautiful about the marks from our past in relation to how God can use those that trust Him with their past, present, and future? How have you seen God use your past or someone else's past to help others?

•Sometimes we allow our "marks" from the past (including the ones that happened just days, hours, or minutes ago) to become an excuse for not growing in our faith. What do you think someone is thinking when they do that?

•Read Romans 5: 1 & 2. What is Paul making very clear to Christ followers here? When you've done something that is wrong do you feel like praying or investing time reading the Bible? Why or why not? What is the problem with avoiding God when we are struggling with sin?

•We heard the phrase "Righteous Up" on Sunday. What does that mean to you?

Romans 8:1 & 2 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

John 21: 15-19 (NIV)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

II Corinthians 1:3-5 (CEV)

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share this same comfort with others in trouble. We share in the terrible sufferings of Christ, but also in the wonderful comfort he gives.

Romans 5:1-5 (NIRV)

We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus we have received God's grace. In that grace we stand. We are full of joy because we expect to share in God's glory. And that's not all. We are full of joy even when we suffer. We know that our suffering gives us the strength to go on. The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope. And hope will never let us down. God has poured his love into our hearts. He did it through the Holy Spirit, whom he has given to us.