

Bible Study #8
Mark 2:13-17

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Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Teaching Points:

1. Jesus came to save sinners.
2. Separation is not isolation.

Practical Applications:

1. We should practice relationship evangelism as Matthew did.

2. Don't wait to witness.

Questions From The Text:

1. Who was Levi, and what was his occupation? Where was his office?

Levi was also known as Matthew, and he wrote the gospel bearing his name. He was a tax collector before he became a disciple. His office was like a toll booth. Capernaum was located on a major road, so trade, travel and citizen's taxes were collected there.

2. What was it like to be a tax collector in the days of Jesus? What is another name for a tax collector?

It was a lucrative position, and open to graft because of over-charging. Tax collectors were not popular with the people (understatement), because the Jews were forced to pay taxes to Rome. Another name for a tax collector was "publican."

3. What did the scribes and Pharisees infer when they asked the question in Mark 2:16?

That the publican and others at the table were sinners.

4. What did Jesus mean by His statement in Mark 2:17?

The scribes and Pharisees thought of themselves as righteous, and others as sinners. The self-righteous felt no need of salvation, and therefore, couldn't be cured.

5. Did Matthew's values and attitudes change after the Lord called him?

Yes. He changed his ways and wanted to share Christ with his friends. He was not hesitant in identifying himself with Christ. See Mark 2:14-16.

6. Does Jesus pray for believers to be taken out of the world?

No. He prayed that they would be kept from the unholy values and attitudes of the world, but that they were to stay in the world to share the gospel with unbelievers. See John 17.

7. What does the great commission tell us to do?

See Matthew 28:19-20

Further Discussion:

1. Recall the people with whom you have shared Christ over the years. Have you had the joy of leading someone to Christ?

2. How separated are you from the values and attitudes of the world?

Memorize:

Jesus said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.' (Mark 2:17)

Gospel of Mark Sermon Series

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