

Title: Christ Came to Call Sinners

Passage: Mark 2:13-17

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. (v.13)

Jesus was teaching

Mark 2:1-2

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

- Jesus came back home.
- Jesus was teaching: came to bring eternal salvation

Crowds

- multiple Biblical references where crowds "inconvenienced" him (Ex: crowd so large that Jesus got in a boat)
- Mark 15: crowd ultimately shouted "Crucify him"
- But Jesus' response to the crowds:

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Jesus was never tired of the obnoxious crowds during His earthly ministry

- Question: How have you been unmindful of the Lord?
 - Jesus response: I still has compassion on you.

2 Timothy 2:13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. (v. 14)

Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth

- Why pick Matthew/Levi? He wasn't even standing but sitting.
- Jesus chooses people out of His grace and mercy.

Ephesians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the

world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

- God's divine calling is necessary before we are able to respond

John 10:14-16

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Matthew 11:27-30

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 19:25-26

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

- Be encouraged to continue to pray for the lost.
- Quote: The age of miracles has not yet passed...no one is no too bad for Christ to call, let us pray for all.

And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. (v. 15)

- Saving faith not only follows Christ, it also helps others follow Christ.

Jesus describing tax collectors

Matthew 5:46

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Matthew 18:17

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- Why viewed so lowly? They were traitors that took money from their own people. They didn't exactly follow the law. They forsook Jewish identity and took money.

Jesus and his disciples

- Disciples at this time: Simon, Andrew, James, and John.
- Where? They fished at Capernaum
- Implications: Levi took the disciples earnings as fisherman. The disciples knew of Levi beforehand

were reclining with Jesus and his disciples

- Reclining: Jesus is relaxed with sinners. Socially identifying with the lost

And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” (v.16)

- Caution: Christians should be concerned if feel more comfortable among Christians than non-Christians
- Caution: Christians take the general truth that Jesus was “friend of sinners” but twist it (Jesus is soft on sin).
- Jesus was a friend of sinners not to “wink” at sin but to save us from our sins.

Pharisees

- Pharisee = separated one
- they were legalistic religious leaders of that time.

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

- A question not out of curiosity but of condemnation.
- Caution: our heart tends to one of legalism and licentiousness
 - Legalism: hates
 - Licentiousness: hates that Christ demands sinners change
 - Both fatally view the law incorrectly. Both are antithetical to grace.
 - God’s grace in Christ is the answer to both.

Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (v. 17)

- Jesus highlights what sinners need and how He will provide.

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners

- Sinners = guilty of breaking God’s law.
- There are only two types of men: 1_ righteous men who think they are sinners and 2) sinners who think they are righteous

Luke 18:10-14

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Gospel is for sinners

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

- Jesus came to forgive sins, which only God can do.
- There are clear distinctions:
 - Heaven or hell
 - Forgiveness or condemnation
 - Hope or despair

He calls sinners

- call = to be summoned by name
- Question: Have you heard of God's call on your life?
 - Do you feel yourself as a sinner?
 - Do you hear His calling for you to respond?
- Question: As a believer, do you feel as the worst sinner among your friends/family and come to recognize the value and meaning of the Gospel?
 - Jesus stands ready to save you if you come

Hymn: Come ye sinners, poor and wretched

<https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/1032>

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
 Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
 Jesus ready waits to save you,
 Full of pity, love and pow'r:
 He is able, He is able,
 He is willing, doubt no more.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
 Lost and ruined by the fall;
 If you tarry till you're better,
 You will never come at all:
 Not the righteous, not the righteous,
 Sinners Jesus came to call.