

Mark 2:13-17

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• **During Covid, get covid, can't go to the drs office. Wait until you are better.**

• **Continuing in Mark 2:13-17** (4 verses) Parallel Matt. 9:9-12; ; Luke 5:27-32

Verse 13- ¹³ *Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.*

• **Beside the lake.** Lake of Gennesaret - **Sea of Galilee**

• **Teach them**, “didasko” expository instructional as opposed to Greek discussion and bantering. Our preaching should not be back and forth equally valid opinion.

Verse 14- ¹⁴ *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.*

• **Levi is Jewish name “Levi” “Leviticus”.** He is also called “Matthew” in the book of “Matthew” Greek for “Gift of God”.

• **Jesus calling an Apostle.** Seems like an **odd choices**.

• **You are picking a guy to help you in Godly, Christian work.**

• **Anybody have a black sheep in your family?** One person who betrayed the family or hurt the family in some way & you unfriended them & they don't get invited to Thanksgiving? **Maybe it's you! -Being a tax collector was worse!**

• **2 types of tax collector – Gabbai –** Collected regular 1% of income and additional tax on grace, produce and a levy on each person. Straightforward

• **Mokhsa – Probably Levi –** Contracted to deal with other taxes. Tax your boat, fish, harbor, wagon axles, animals pulling wagon, goods on the wagon. Would dig and search and unload. Charge tax and then extort extra for themselves.

• **Roman taxes.** Resented supporting govmt catering to idolatry and immorality

• These jobs were in **high demand** because they **made you rich. But hated.**

• As a Jew you were a **traitor, violating your own people for money.**

• **Feeling not like IRS, but a drug dealer or child molester.**

○ Abuse, Opportunist at the innocent's expense.

• **They were immediately excommunicated, couldn't testify in court.**

• **And Levi has a prime location in Galilee.** – International trade and travelers.

• Think of the opposition from the other disciples. Strange choice for a disciple.

Verse 14 - ¹⁴ *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.*

• **Jesus call to Levi, “Follow Me”** same call to Simon, Andrew, John you and I

• **This guy has a lot to lose. He's leaving a lot more than the fishermen did.**

• **Luke 5:27b-28 says, “Follow Me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.**

• **What's did He just call Matthew to? To leave self-directed life and follow Jesus.**

Jesus doesn't lead us where we necessarily want to go.

John 21:17-18 ¹⁷ *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. ¹⁸ 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.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”*

Verse 15-17 - ¹⁵ *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. ¹⁶ 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?” ¹⁷ 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.”*

• **The scandal is that Jesus is being a friend to morally bad people.**

• Violates Doctrine of separation held by the Pharisees. Some hold this today.

• Other systems of belief offer no welcome to the sinner until they cease to be a sinner or are penitent. If I'm a sinner what are my options

1. **To be like Jesus, you must be willing to associate with sinners.**

• **Truth** - Making friends and loving people is the key to effective evangelism.

• Peter violates this and is called on the carpet by Paul in Galatians 2

2. **We must recognize we are all sinners. Romans 3:10 –** *There is no one righteous, not even one.*

• The problem is there are some who think they are righteous.

Matthew 5: 3 - *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.* This is an understanding or you spirit being poor. Bankrupt.

• **Do you know what bankruptcy is?** completely unable to pay So, they wipe out all your debts past and present. Clean start. Old debts can't come back to you.

• **With Jesus, we must declare spiritual bankruptcy.** We are broke and can never pay it of. We are poor in spirit. And Jesus wipes out or debts, past, present and future.

• **The Pharisees haven't done that, but Levi did.**

Luke 18:9-14 ⁹ *To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner. ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

Verse 17 - *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* - There are no healthy. We are all sick. So, he is calling those who recognize they are sick.

1. **There's no cure for the patient who doesn't think they are sick.**

2. **There's no curing for the doctor who won't treat sick people.**

3. **There's no forgiveness for the sinner who thinks they are righteous.**

4. **You can't minister to sinners if you won't spend time with sinners.**

5. **Spiritually, people are self-diagnosing or being professionally diagnosed incorrectly,** “you're fine”. “That's not a sin”. “You're better than that person.” **therefore, they don't seek or receive the cure for sin.**

6. **When we spend time with sinners, we don't do so as comrades in evil, but as physicians with a cure.**