

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



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Mark 2:13–17

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13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. **14** 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.

15 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. **16** 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?”

17 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.”

Jesus corrects 2 Misconceptions:

God is not corrupted by our sin, but we are contaminated with his holiness.

- The Identity of Jesus’ followers
 - Tax collectors & Sinners
- The Identity of Jesus
 - Jesus is the “Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1)
 - “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’” (v. 17).

- “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1)
- Jesus leans in rather than pushes away.
- Jesus corrects our misconception about God—Anyone can receive God’s grace.
- “The Pharisees represented an attitude that approached sin from the preventive side. They wanted to make and enforce rules that would safeguard people from becoming impure and immoral. Jesus represented an attitude that approached sin from the creative side, seeking to reclaim the impure and immoral” (David E. Garland, *Mark*, 111).
- If Jesus drew near to sinners then that means God draws near to sinner.

The kingdom of God is not exclusive, but open to all.

- The Character of Their Kingdom
 - The religious leaders believed God’s kingdom to be Exclusive
- The Character of God’s Kingdom
 - Jesus shows that God’s kingdom is Inclusive
 - “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” (Luke 7:34).
 - “The Pharisees are asking Jesus to behave like a doctor who avoided sick people” (Tim Chester, *A Meal with Jesus*, 24).
 - "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations” (Isaiah 25:6–7).
 - Jesus includes rather than excludes.
- Jesus corrects our misconception about the kingdom of God—Anyone is welcome into the kingdom
 - If Jesus ate with sinners then that means God’s kingdom is open to anyone.

If Jesus corrected two misconceptions, then he leaves us with two questions

- What’s holding you back from receiving God’s grace?
- Who are you holding back from inviting into the kingdom?

As a friend of sinners, Jesus welcomes anyone into the kingdom of God.