

Series "The God Who Serves"
"The Friend Of Sinners"
Mark 2:13-17
Study-7

One of the strangest, saddest features of Jesus' ministry was the religious opposition He encountered. The complaint of the religious regarding Jesus was that Jesus received and befriended sinners! Luke 15:1-2

Mark 2:1-3:6 – A Section That Covers 5 Direct Conflicts With The Religious Leaders. Religion has never been the friend of Jesus and sinners.

- 1. Mark 2:1-12** – Conflict With The Religious Over The Authority To Forgive Sins
- 2. Mark 2:13-17** – Conflict With Religious Over Jesus Befriending Sinners
- 3. Mark 2:18-22** – Conflict With The Religious Over Fasting
- 4. Mark 2:23-28** – Conflict With The Religious Over The Sabbath
- 5. Mark 3:1-6** – Conflict With The Religious Over Healing On The Sabbath

John 3:3

Thought Of Our Passage: "My Link To Jesus Is Not My Goodness But My Badness, Not Merit But Misery, Not Standing But Falling."

- 1. Verses 13-15 – The Friend Of Sinners**
- 2. Verse 16 – The Badness Of The Self-Righteous**
- 3. Verse 17 – The Defender Of The Sinner**

1. Verses 13-15 – The Friend Of Sinners:

Mark 2:13

Jesus' Authority To Forgive Sin: Matt 2:10-12

"And He went out again by the seashore;" – Mark described how Jesus called 4 of His first disciples, Mark 1:16-20

"teaching them." – "Kept teaching them"; This is why Jesus came.
Mark 1:38

2 Timothy 4:1-4

Mark 2:14

This calling and discourse is recorded in all 3 of the Synoptic Gospels:
Matt 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

Jesus' Attitude Towards Sinners: "He saw Levi" – the word that is used means "to inspect, examine"

Matt 9:9 – said he was called Matthew, his name means "gift of God"

"the son of Alphaeus" – "changing"

"sitting in the tax office" – literally "the place of toll"

Description of 1st Century Tax Collectors/Publicans:

Tax Collectors were placed over a District: A tax collector bid among others for the tax collecting "contract."

There Were 2 Categories Of Taxation:

1. Fixed Taxes: Poll tax – That men and women paid because they were alive. The ground tax – tenth of all, income tax (1 percent of earnings)
2. Duties and Tolls: People paid separate taxes for the use of roads, docking their boats, imports, exports duties, and sales tax. Cart tax where each wheel could be taxed.

Tax Collectors were Wealthy:

Tax Collectors were Trained Extortionists: They attracted a criminal element.

Tax Collectors were backed by Roman Authority: They could strip search right on the spot; Could tax articles that people were carrying.

Tax Collectors were hated by the Jews: Not fit to testify in court and were barred from entering a synagogue. They were placed in the same category as prostitutes, robbers, adulterers.

The Bible Teaches we are to pay taxes: Matt 22:17-21
Romans 13:5-6

Jesus Said 2 Words To Matthew: "Follow Me!" (Come be my disciple)
Disciple – "Follower of the teacher and the teaching; it is a follower who embodies the teaching of the teacher"

"And he rose and followed Him." – Literally – "was following Him, continually"; It became the pattern of life.

Luke 5:28 – "he left everything behind, and rose and began to follow Him."

Mark 2:15

Luke 5:29

Luke 15:32

“for there were many of them, and they were following Him.” – We are to be “Insulated” But not “Isolated” from sinners.

2. Verse 16 – The Badness Of The Self-Righteous:

Mark 2:16

“And when the scribes” – Often called “Lawyers”, they recorded and made copies of the scriptures. They were so familiar with the scriptures that they became known as “The experts of the law.”

“of the Pharisees” – “Separatist” (“to separate” non-priests); They believed in separation from all that was unclean, including all sinful people.
Lev. 10:10

They believed in “Salvation through Segregation”

The Worst Of All Sinners Were The Religious: Matthew 23:24

Religion Focuses Upon The External –

Christianity Focuses Upon The Internal –

Luke 5:30

3. Verse 17 – The Defender Of The Sinner:

Mark 2:17

“The presence of Jesus with a sinner was no more a scandal than the presence of a patient at a surgery”

In the time of Jeremiah the Prophet, there were false prophets with false claims of healing like ours today. Jeremiah 6:14

Matt. 9:13

Romans 3:10

The religious had taken themselves right out of their faith!

1 Tim. 1:15

Eph. 2:12

Application:

1. Followers Of Jesus Must Not Isolate Themselves From Those Who Are In Need. Jesus Sat Down With Sinners; He Had A Meal With Sinners. Jesus Met Their Need.
2. We Must See Ourselves As Needy Sinners. We Daily Sin And Are In Need Of God's Forgiveness.
3. Our Link To Jesus Christ Is Our Badness Not Our Goodness, Our Misery Not Our Merit, Our Falling Not Our Standing.