

Say A Good Word For Jesus

"(v.13) Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. (v.14) As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple.' Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

(v.15) Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) (v.16) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with such scum?'

(v.17) When Jesus heard this, he told them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'"

Mark 2:13-17

New Living Translation

- *Jesus is always shocking and surprising us.
- *This scene takes place in Capernaum with the "worst sinner" in all Capernaum.
- *Some of the town's strict religious folks saw this scene and began to make comments.

Jesus, hearing them replies: "Healthy people don't need a doctor."
"Sick people need a doctor."

Jesus' mission statement: "**I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.**"

The Righteous Person = no one needs to do anything for me because I am so good I don't need anything from anyone.

There is no sense of need.

Everything is in order.

These were Pharisees & Scribes.

My do's and don'ts keep me safe.

The "Sinner" = "always missing the mark in life: Through carelessness or because they aimed elsewhere.

Jesus **deliberately** goes after the **sinner**!

It surprised them!

It surprises us!

But I can't, for the life of me, understand why it should surprise us.

We expect to find a fireman at a fire, or paramedics on the scene of an accident.

Why, then, should we be surprised to find Christ where all the sinners gather?

Why, then, do we have such a hard time when we start a ministry where we know those struggling with sin will gather?

But the most important thing about these verses is left unsaid!

The important thing was not simply that Jesus was with sinners, it was what He did to them while He was with them.

-Jesus did not **adopt** their style of life

-Jesus did not **compromise** the truth.

-Jesus did not take on Matthew's code of ethics.

-Jesus did not become involved with immorality simply because he spoke with or eat with sinners.

But there is more!

-While Jesus was in the company of sinners, He was able to so inspire them, so lift them by the splendor of His living, that in seeing it, they wanted him—to be like him!

-Jesus gave them, by the splendor of his own living, the desire to change.

-Jesus could tell the truth in love to anyone and they would understand.

We must learn to do as He did—share the truth of love and the truth of evil.

That was the secret of our Lord's ministry . . .

-the **peace**,

-the **strength**,

-the **courage**.

We must go out with that same peace, strength, courage, and people who see it will want it.

-Not the spiritual peacock spreading his wings and saying: Look at me! **NO!**

-We are to so live in Christ Jesus, be so filled with his love, grace, and courage, that people will see HIM! Realizing the poverty of their own living, they will reach for the splendor of life in Christ. That's the ministry focus of the First Baptist Church of Scottsdale! Amen!