

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

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I. JESUS WAS PRESENT WHERE PEOPLE GATHERED [MARK 2:13]

- A. The call to salvation is the call to serve
 - 1. We are to be actively seeking to be salt and light (Matthew 4:19)
 - 2. We are called to be reconcilers and ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
 - 3. The grace and mercy we have received propels us to use our gifts and talents to minister for the Lord (1 Peter 2:8-9)
- B. Being available to meet people
 - 1. Where people work and make a living
 - 2. Where people rest and relax
 - 3. Where people naturally gather

II. JESUS SET HIS PATH TO BE IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOST [MARK 2:14]

- A. Intentionally functioning in situations to associate with those who need the Gospel
 - 1. In his typical counter cultural manner, Jesus saw beyond the corruption, greed, immorality, and depravity to offer a life that would include hope, joy, and peace.
 - 2. He was not afraid to go where those in need lived and worked
- B. Enthusiastic response of Levi
 - 1. Immediately left his job, identity, and livelihood to radically follow Jesus (Luke 5:28)
 - 2. Levi was so transformed by Jesus that he couldn't help but share Christ with those around him

III. JESUS SACRIFICED HIS COMFORT TO REACH THOSE IN NEED [MARK 2:15]

- A. Tax collectors and sinners were looked down upon by society as disgraceful, unworthy, and despicable
- B. Sharing a meal together was an intimate action that demonstrated love, grace, and kindness
- C. Jesus went as guest into their environment
 - 1. Experienced their culture despite different values, beliefs, or traditions (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
 - 2. Instead of inviting Levi and his friends into a situation where he felt comfortable, Jesus intentionally went to them
 - 3. Became known as a friend to sinners (Matthew 11:19)

IV. JESUS' MESSAGE OF HOPE AND HEALING [MARK 2:16-17]

- A. Jesus came to bring salvation to sinners (Matthew 1:21)
 - 1. People who are alienated from the life of God

MARK 2:13-17

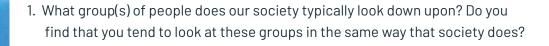
He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them.

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."

- 2. The call to salvation requires a recognition of need
- B. The healthy do not need a doctor
 - 1. Since none are truly righteous, the implication is that the Pharisees only thought that they were acceptable to God
 - 2. Ritualistic religious behavior is inadequate (Hosea 6:6)
 - 3. We all are spiritually sick and desperately need the Gospel of Jesus Christ

SERMON REFLECTIONS



2. What is it about the good news of the Gospel that compels us to serve those who are seen as outcasts?

3. In this "shelter-in-place" season, what are some practical and safe ways that you can connect with people in environments that they feel comfortable with?

4. What kind of new opportunities do we have to serve our neighbors as Christ's ambassadors during these uncertain times?

5. How have you approached serving others over this past year? How might reflecting on the good news of the Gospel change your approach to serving others in 2021?