

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

1. What group(s) of people does our society typically look down upon? Do you find that you tend to look at these groups in the same way that society does?
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?