

Jesus is King | A Series through the Gospel of Mark

Team Jesus

Text: Mark 2:13-17

Synopsis: The religious critic feels self-righteous and only loves people who can give back to them, but Jesus goes after people who can give nothing back and that the world has given up on.

Jesus Picks The Outcasts

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 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. (Mark 2:13-14)

Jesus picks outcasts to follow Him

¹ They were outcasts to society. To accept a custom's service role, you would be...

1. Disqualified as judges and court witnesses
2. Excommunicated from the synagogue
3. Disgraced by your family²

Jesus picks outcasts to follow Him *with his people*

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. (Mark 2:15)

Freedom fighter and corrupt bureaucratic traitor - Jesus brings mortal enemies together.

What the love of Jesus reveals about us:

1. The self righteous heart

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?" (Mark 2:16)

2. The kingdom response

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." (Mark 2:17)

Experiencing God's love requires radical vulnerability and openness.

Your takeaway depends on where you are

Scribes: Self-awareness: Am I the one who's sick?

Tax Collector: No one is beyond the love of God in Christ!

¹ Ben Witherington III. *The Gospel of Mark: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*. (Eerdmans, 2001). 120

² William L. Lane. *The Gospel of Mark*. (NICNT; Eerdmans, 1974). 101-103