



A Savior for Outcasts

Mark 2:13-17

1. What does it mean to be an outcast?

a. Talk about a time when you felt like an outcast.

2. Read Mark 2:13-14. Explain what is significant about what Jesus does.

a. From the sermon, why were tax collectors despised by the Jewish people?

b. What do we learn about God since Levi/ Matthew (Matthew 9:9, 10:3) became one of the apostles and wrote a book of the Bible?

3. Read Mark 2:15. From the sermon, why this was so shocking?

a. What do you learn about Jesus as you meditate on the fact that He was building “relationships” with outcasts?

4. It’s critical that we are salt and light while we build relationships with “outcast” (i.e. – we are the influencers, not being influenced).

a. What are some indicators that you are being influenced by “outcasts”?

b. What are some indicators that you are exerting influence with “outcasts”?

c. What do you think it means to be a “moral snob” while relating to outwardly immoral people?

d. When do you struggle with being a “moral snob”?

e. What are some wise and gracious ways to respond to a “dirty joke” that someone just told you?

-
-
- f. What are some wise and gracious ways to respond to blatantly foolish comments someone makes?

5. What is unexpected about what we read in Mark 2:16?

-
- a. Recall from the sermon what you learned about the Pharisees.

6. The Pharisees believed that they earned God's acceptance by their religious obedience. Why do you think this led them to look down on the tax collectors and sinners?

-
- a. Why does seeking to earn God's acceptance by your obedience lead to pride or despair?

-
- b. Do you tend to struggle more with feeling superior to others, or despairing of your failures? How does knowing "Jesus" earned God's acceptance for you free you from pride or despairing?

7. How does Jesus respond in Mark 2:17?

-
- a. Why can "you" personally relate to outcasts like tax collectors and sinners (see Romans 3:9-12)? How does knowing *you* were an outcast before Jesus came and rescued you, impact your love for outcasts in society?

8. What would happen in Joliet if Mosaic Community was filled with people who loved outcasts like Jesus?
