

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Date: 19 May 2024

Text: Mark 2:13-17

Message: Ted Rastatter

Questions: John Brewer

In Mark 2:13-17, Jesus, with a crowd in tow, calls Levi to follow him while Levi is sitting in the tax collector's booth. The next scene has Jesus engaged socially with not only one, but a group of "tax collectors and sinners." When the scribes questioned this behavior, Jesus famously answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

1. As a tax collector, the Jews would have seen Levi as a despicable traitor. As Jesus walks by Levi sitting in the tax booth, what does he see in Levi? What does Jesus see in us? What does this say about how we should see other believers? What does it say about how we should see unbelievers?
2. There was likely confusion that Jesus didn't come immediately exacting Judgement on people like Levi (Reference John the Baptist in Matthew 11:2-3 and John 6:66-67). Why was there such confusion and why didn't it happen the way people expected? Reference Romans 5:12-15. Is judgment ever coming? Reference 2 Peter 3:8-10.
3. Ted highlighted that Levi would have made his living by holding others in debt. How does Jesus handle our debts? Reference Colossians 2:13-14.
4. Jesus answers the scribes with, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." What does that mean? Is there some subset of "good people" who don't need saving? Reference Psalm 14:2-3, Romans 3:23-24 and Romans 5:8. What inward thoughts keep people out of God's kingdom?
5. Ted challenged us not to commit the sin of Jonah. What does that mean? Are you ever tempted to view someone as undeserving of God's love or "too far gone?"
6. Mark 2:15 describes Jesus sharing a social meal with "many tax collectors and sinners." Can you think of any modern parallels to this scene? In our modern world filled with depravity, we can be tempted to fully separate ourselves from the world around us (consider the Amish). Is this our calling? What did Jesus want for us? Read John 17:14-18 and Matthew 28:18-20. How are we to live then? Reference Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 1:13-16.