

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

2015 VISION: *Redeem the Time!*

Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 13

Scriptures for Today: Mark 2:13-17**Title of Today's Message: The Righteous Problem – *the danger of not seeing your sickness!*****INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we saw the great lengths that **four people** took to **bring 1 person** to Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He healed the sick of the palsy. This week, we will see the incredible conversion of **LEVI**. He was by the “religious” standards of his day, the lowest scum on the planet. He was a Roman tax (_____) collector! When Jesus saw him, He asked Levi to follow Him. And, Levi arose and followed Him! He then had a great feast at his house with Jesus along with many publicans and sinners. The “religious” people could not believe that Jesus would associate with **publicans and sinners**. In our passage, **Jesus will make a statement** that will **guide** _____ we witness. Believer, take good notes. Unbeliever, pay attention. **Your eternity depends on it!**

PREACHING NOTES

1. As **he went forth again** by the sea side, _____ **the multitude resorted unto Him...**

- ✓ When all the multitude resorted to where Jesus was, **He taught them...**
Mark 2:2; 4:1; Luke 19:47, 48; 21:38; Proverbs 1:20

NOTE Is there any doubt what Jesus would do if He were with us this morning? Surely, He would be teaching and preaching the Word of God unto us! So, we will stick to that plan also!

2. When **Jesus saw Levi** (Matthew) sitting at **the receipt of custom**, He said, _____ **ME...**

- ✓ Levi was a publican – **a Roman tax or tribute collector** – despised by the religious people...
Matthew 18:17

Matthew 18:17 – *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

- ✓ When Jesus called him, **he left all, rose up, and followed Him...**
Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:28; Mark 1:17-20; Matthew 4:19-22; Mark 3:13-19 (*the Twelve Disciples*)

Luke 5:28 – *And he left all, rose up, and followed him.*

- ✓ After following Jesus, Levi invited **many publicans and sinners** to a feast with Jesus...
John 4:27-30; Luke 5:29, 30; 15:1; Matthew 9:10-11; 21:31, 32

John 4:28, 29 – *The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.*

NOTE What a blessing it is to see a **sinner** who has followed the Saviour! As soon as Levi followed Christ, he decided that all his friends and others like him needed to meet and follow Jesus also! So he invited them to see. The woman at the well did the same. When we have been **pardoned for our sins** – our crimes against Almighty God – we cannot help but tell others!

3. And when **the scribes and Pharisees** saw him **eat with publicans and** _____...

- ✓ The scribes and Pharisees ("good" people) could not believe Jesus **associated with sinners**...
Luke 15:1, 2, 7; 18:9-14; Mark 12:37-40; Isaiah 65:4

Luke 15:1, 2 – Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

- ✓ The scribes and Pharisees ("good" people) believed they were **RIGHTEOUS** (_____)...
Luke 18:9-14; Romans 3:9-20; Mark 10:17-31

Luke 18:9 – And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

- ✓ Jesus said, I came not to call the **RIGHTEOUS** ("good" people), but **SINNERS** to **REPENTANCE**...
Isaiah 1:18; 55:7; Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10; Acts 20:21; 26:20; Romans 5:6-8, 20, 21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:15, 16; Titus 3:3-7; James 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:5-6

Luke 18:13 – And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Romans 5:6-8 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

NOTE Christ did not die for the godly (**RIGHTEOUS**). There is none righteous but God. **Christ died for the ungodly!** And, until you see yourself in the mirror of God's word as ungodly and unrighteous, Jesus cannot save you. **This is why we use the Law (Ten Commandments) when talking to unbelievers.** Jesus said, "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." It is only when you realize that you have offended Almighty God and that your crimes and rebellion are against Him and Him alone (**you know you are sick**) and that you deserve hell...that you will repent and call out to the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from God's judgment and wrath and hell to come. **Do what Levi did.** Follow Christ today!

❖ Personal Application

- What did God say to you through His Word today? Obey Him. Give Him more glory this week.
- If today you have seen your crimes, then do what the Bible says – **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God.** Repent and trust the Saviour before it is too late.

A TIME OF DECISION

There are no coincidences with God. You were here today to hear a message **from God**...

- ❖ **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

* The Bible says you must **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead**. You must turn to God and trust Christ alone to save you from God's wrath to come.