

**When** the **Gospel** of **Mark** really wants to **make a point**  
Mark **strings similar events** together

to **make sure** we “**GET**” what he’s **getting** at

**Lst wk** – in our **msg** titled – “**Reaching Jesus By Force**”  
we **saw** the **first head-to-head** confrontation

between the **Authority of Jesus**  
& the **Arrogance of the Pharisees**

But **that** was **just** the **FIRST** – of **FIVE Events**  
that **Mark strings** together

To **make sure** we **UNDERSTAND**

The **SIGNIFICANCE** – of the **on-going confrontation**  
between **Jesus** & the **Pharisees**

& - **as I mentioned** last week  
**this confrontation** is what **Jesus** actually **uses**

**For him** to **ultimately Reach - The Cross**  
**which** was his **real reason** for **becoming** a **man**

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But – thru these FIVE back-to-back confrontations  
between Jesus & the Pharisees

we have a huge, huge lesson to learn  
from the Pharisees . . . DON'T BE ONE!

*Don't Be A Pharisee!*

Let's Pray

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So – like last wk's Msg – there are actually  
Two lessons in our text today

& our FIRST lesson  
THAT LEADS to our SECOND lesson - - starts in

Mark 2:13 (NLT)

*13 Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him.*

Jesus is still in Capernaum

The 4 men who dug thru the roof in our last Msg  
are back at the house doing some roof repair

So Jesus goes for a WALK  
*to teach the crowds who were coming to him*

& Mark 2:14(a) continues (NLT) → →

## **Mark 2:14(a) (NLT)**

***14(a) As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth . . .***

This **LEVI** - is **MATTHEW**  
the **writer** of the **Gospel of Matthew**

**& this Levi (Matthew) – was HATED – Not just by the Pharisees  
he was HATED by ALL good Jews**

**Which is really interesting**

**when you realize that his gospel  
was written specifically FOR the Jews – who hated him**

to **PROVE to them** – that **Jesus** was **the Messiah**

**But here** – in Mark – **He is just**  
a **Hated & Despised TAX-COLLECTOR**

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**Tax Collectors were hated – because they worked For ROME**

They **collected taxes** from the **Jews** –  
**AND** from **those** who **travelled** the **VIA MARIS**

**which was a Major trade route from Egypt to Mesopotamia  
& passed right at the edge of Capernaum**

**& - NOT ONLY did Matthew & the other tax collectors  
Collect taxes for ROME**

but *They Lived* on the "Extra" they collected

In other words – the more they collected from their fellow Jews  
*the better they lived*

& it seems ALL Tax Collectors, including Matthew –  
*Lived very well*

THE TRADE-OFF was – they would be  
excommunicated from the Synagogues

& aggressively Shunned  
by the Jewish leaders - & by their Own Families

& the only ones who would associate with the Tax Collectors  
were the WORST of Sinners

those who had nothing to lose  
by being seen with a Tax Collector

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& so – the Beginning of Mark 2:14 has Matthew (Levi)  
sitting at his Tax Collectors Booth

Which was a raised platform on the edge of the road

from which he collected taxes (& HATE)  
from those who passed by

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& then . . . JESUS walked by

**& in Mark 2:14(b) – We read a very direct statement (NLT) 14(b) . . . “*Follow me and be my disciple,*” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.**

Listen - **We** can **READ** that **Easily** – actually **TOO Easily**  
Because **This** is a **MASSIVE Bombshell** of an **Event**

The **Four Fishermen** that **Jesus called** in **Ch 1**  
were **Bad Enough**

**Jesus** started **TOWARD** the **LOW END** of the **Social Barrel**  
**with** the **Fishermen**

But **now** he’s gone **PAST the bottom** of the **Social Barrel**  
**down** into the **DREGS of Society**

**Jesus** just **called** the **worst** of all **‘White-Collar’ Sinners**  
to **be** his **Disciple**

He **called** a - **Hated – Despised - Tax Collector**  
& **Levi** (Matthew) just **got up** - & **FOLLOWED Him!**

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**This is incredible** – **no one would** have **guessed**  
that **Jesus** would have **gone THIS LOW** – to **call a disciple**

& **then** . . . it **gets WORSE!**

**Mark 2:15 (NLT)** →

## **Mark 2:15 (NLT)**

***15 Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (& then, Mark drives home our First Point) (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.)***

***THIS is our FIRST LESSON today - There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers – Hated, Despised, Sinners***

***Jesus - It's bad enough - you called this Tax Collector – But now you go to his HOUSE – That Gov't Corruption Paid For?***

***& then – you JOIN Other Tax Collectors & Misc Disreputable SINNERS – FOR DINNER!***

***& Jesus says – Yeah, you got a problem with that?***

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***Levi – like most tax collectors – was most likely – wealthy***

***But – it was Corruption Wealth – Like Gangster Wealth & so - his only Friends - were others like him***

***& he probably just wanted all his Disreputable Sinner Friends to meet Jesus & his disciples***

***& he probably wanted his friends to know***

***WHY he was leaving his life of Government Corruption to follow this Radical New Teacher of God***

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**BUT** - this **Presented** a **HUGE PROBLEM**

For the **Pharisees**

**Primarily** because – **there** was a **Belief** at **that time** –  
(& *still somewhat today*) – in **that part** of the **world**

that **when** you **EAT with someone**  
**you** are actually **SHARING LIFE** with them

**Which** is **part** of what **forms** the **BASIS**

for **us** **Sharing Life** with **Jesus**  
when we **take COMMUNION**

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& **So** - **the Pharisees** saw this **Dinner Scene**

as **Jesus** - **Sharing LIFE**  
**with** these **Disreputable Sinners**

**& so we read in Mark 2:16 (NLT)**

***16 But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?”***

**When** they say **“Why does he eat with such scum?”**

What they’re **really saying** is – how can **Jesus**  
be **Sharing Life** with **these Sinners ?**

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They're accusing Jesus (to some extent) of  
"Becoming One" with the worst of the sinners

Which – if you can FOCUS  
on the spiritual side of things

in a way – Jesus WAS preparing to become one with them

## 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

*21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Jesus WAS preparing – to "take on" the sin  
of the very worst of ALL Sinners – LIKE US

& pay the full penalty for our SIN – In our place

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But – the Pharisees were thinking - NO SUCH thing

they were thinking only out of their  
Religious Self Righteousness

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& Guys – Right here - is where  
we HAVE to turn the Pharisee Mirror – on ourselves

Right here – in Mark 2:17 (NLT) →



## **Mark 2:17 (NLT)**

***17 When Jesus heard this (their question, Why does he eat with such sinners?), he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call NOT THOSE who THINK they are righteous, BUT THOSE who KNOW they are sinners.”***

**Guys - If we could Truly TAKE IN - this ONE Verse**

**It would Radically Transform our Lives - - [repeat vs.]**

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**& maybe you could hear the Pharisees  
RESPONDING to one another**

***Uh . . . wait a minute . . . did he say, those who THINK they’re Righteous – is he talking about US?***

***Some Religious Teacher this guy is?***

***He COMES to the Sinners?  
& IGNORES us who are Righteous?***

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**Let me read the last line of V.17 - One More Time**

## **Mark 2:17(b) (NLT)**

***17 [Jesus says] . . . I have come to call NOT THOSE who THINK they are righteous, BUT THOSE who KNOW they are SINNERS.”***

**Please – Listen carefully right here →**

**If this Statement from Jesus is TRUE  
Then WHY do we all TRY to ACT like we're RIGHTEOUS?**

**Do we NOT want to be CALLED by Jesus?**

**Do we NOT want to COMMUNE with Jesus?**

**Do we WANT to be PHARISEES – Who Put on  
the Righteous MASK - & Parade it around Church?**

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**When was the Last Time – A CHRISTIAN said to you . . .**

***Man – I AM A SINNER, by Nature & by Choice***

***My heart is deceitfully wicked  
& My PRIDE is my Worst Sin of all***

***My PRIDE distorts everything I think  
about myself & about my own actions***

***& no matter what I'm doing all week***

***when I come to church - I do my best  
to LOOK & ACT - like a GOOD CHRISTIAN***

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**Guys – if we Really DON'T WANT to BE a Pharisee**

**At some point – we HAVE TO ADMIT – that We HAVE  
Pharisee Tendencies – in our OWN LIVES**

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**THIS IS CRITICAL**

**Because – Jesus didn't want to have anything to do**

**with those who THOUGHT they were Righteous**

**OR those who wanted to LOOK Righteous**

***Jesus CAME to CALL - & even be One With  
those who KNOW they are SINNERS***

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**Maybe it's Because - a Prideful – Self-Righteous Heart**

**is often CLOSED to the TRUTH of God's Word,  
& to The POWER of Jesus Christ**

**But a person who KNOWS  
just how BADLY they NEED Jesus**

**THAT person – is Ready to RECEIVE God's WORD**

**AND - Receive his POWER to BE TRANSFORMED**

***SO . . . DON'T BE A PHARISEE !***

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**We're going to See THREE MORE CONFLICTS**

**IN A ROW – Between Jesus & the Pharisees - (*Five total*)**

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& there's one thing that's **CONSISTENT**  
in every one of these **5 conflicts** with the **Pharisees**

The **Common Denominator** is - **Prideful Self-Righteousness**

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& before we start thinking about the uptight  
legalistic churches – where polyester suits are still in fashion

*please hear me, when I say*

**Thinking** that **SOMEONE ELSE** is a **PHARISEE**  
Is a **very PHARISAICAL thing** to do!

**What's** that **old saying** - we **used** to **use** as **kids** . . . ?  
***"Takes one to know one"***

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So – **now** that **WE are ALL** - **in** the **CROSS-HAIRS**

**The Question is**  
***How do we AVOID, becoming a Pharisee?***

**How** can we **GUARD AGAINST**  
**ACTING like a Pharisee?**

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**Let me Start**  
By **giving you** the **TOP Two Traits** of a **Pharisee** →

**#1) A Pharisee ALWAYS thinks he (or she) IS RIGHT**

**#2) A Pharisee ALWAYS wants others to see him (or her)  
in the BEST Possible LIGHT**

**& so they ALWAYS wear A MASK  
when they're around other Christians**

**#1) A Pharisee is ALWAYS right**

**#2) A Pharisee ALWAYS wears a MASK around other Christians**

***DON'T BE A PHARISEE!***

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**So - HOW do we GUARD AGAINST being a Pharisee?**

***Two Words - BROKENNESS & HUMILITY***

We Guard Against Being a Pharisee

BY making sure that BROKENNESS & HUMILITY  
are Primary Character Traits in our Lives

Because these Two Character Traits

especially mark those  
who truly KNOW their NEED for Christ

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**Brokenness** is **coming** to the **end of your – SELF**

**Brokenness allows** us to **see**

Our **tremendous need** for a **Savior**

**A man** (or woman) whose **PRIDE** has **been broken**  
is **QUICK to Repent**

**in order** to **stay** very **CLOSE** to **their Savior**

They **don't sweep sin** under the **rug**  
**pretending** to **others** that it's **NOT there**

They **don't** try to **make excuses** for **their SIN**  
**justifying** it to **others**

**Instead** – they **rush** into **God's Presence**  
**Repenting** of **their Sin**

& **Relying** on **God** to give **them strength**  
to **cling** to **God's Love** & **God's Will**

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And - **BROKENNESS** produces **HUMILITY**

**Until** our **Pride is Broken** - we will **NOT humble ourselves**  
before **God** or **other Christians**

**True Humility** is **NOT being concerned** about **SELF**  
It's **NOT thinking** of **SELF**

**Brokenness and Humility**  
are the **DOUBLE Character Traits**

**that bring a person**  
to **Surrender**, **Repentance** and **Ultimately - VICTORY**

& **these Two Radical Character Traits**  
(**Brokenness** & **Humility**)

**Must continue to GROW in a Christian**  
their **entire life**

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**As we** go thru the **next 3** head-to-head **conflicts**

**between** the **Authority of Jesus**  
& the **Arrogance of the Pharisees**

I **want** to **talk more** – About **how** to **NOT be a Pharisee**

**But - For today** – let's **leave** with **TWO TRUTHS**

**#1) We CAN be Pharisees**

& we **MIGHT Actually - BE a Pharisee today**

**#2) We CAN be HEALED of Being a Pharisee**

**thru** the **Miraculous 'Double Remedy'**  
of **Brokenness** & **Humility**

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**Let me close** with a **Vs**

that was a **Famous Worship Chorus** in the **80's**

**Micah 6:8 (NKJV)**

***8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?***

**THIS** is **the Antidote** - to **Being a Pharisee**

**With** our **Pride BROKEN**

We **Walk HUMBLY** with our God

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**Start** by **being HONEST**

With just **Yourself & God** . . . **Brutally Honest**

**#1) God, Do I always want to BE RIGHT?**

**#2) Do I wear a MASK around other Christians  
In order to try to LOOK RIGHT to them**

Lord, **SAVE ME** – from **Being a Pharisee**

Lord, **HELP ME**

to live in **BROKENNESS** instead of **PRIDE**

& **HELP ME**

to live in **HUMILITY** instead of **ARROGANCE**

**Let's Pray**