

**Friend of Sinners**  
**7-12-26 Mark McCartin**

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## **I. Remembering Our Identity**

*Churches must remember who God has called them to be if they are going to remain faithful.*

John 3:16; 20:21; Luke 19:10; 1Tim1:15-16; 1Cor 5:17-21

### **Mark 2:13-17** ([Matt 9:9-13](#); [Luke 5:27-32](#))

*Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.*

<sup>15</sup> *While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.*

<sup>16</sup> *When the teachers of the law (Moses) who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>17</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

## **II. An "Unlikely" Disciple** (vs. 14)

### **Tax collectors:**

worked for Rome / viewed as collaborators  
often collected more than required / kept the excess  
were considered religiously unclean

## **III. Jesus Eats with Sinners** (vs. 6)

The scandal was He shared table fellowship.  
In Jewish culture, eating together communicated:  
acceptance / relationship / peace / friendship

## **IV. Pharisees Object**

The Pharisees viewed this as compromising holiness.  
Lev 19:2; Ps1:1

## **V. Jesus' Mission (vs 17)**

Jesus did not come not to congratulate the "righteous" but to rescue sinners.

Matt 9:12-13; Luke 5:31-32; Mark 1:15

## **VI. Kindness, More Contagious Than Sin**

Mark 1; Luke 7; 19; Rom 5:8

**Rom 2:4** *do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that **God's kindness** is intended to lead you to repentance?*

## **VII. Application**

- Would sinners enjoy being around us?
- Would they feel welcomed?
- Are we more like Jesus or the Pharisees?