

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"EXPANDING THE KINGDOM THROUGH EXTRAVAGANT GRACE"

DATE: October 1, 2017

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 2:13-17

Discuss

1. Tax collectors were among the most despised members of Jewish society in Jesus' day, and yet Jesus called Levi, the tax collector, to be one of his disciples. (v. 14)
 - Read Luke 18:9-14, considering it along with Mark 2:17.
 - Is anyone "too lost" to be saved? What prevents people from seeing their need of a Savior? Can you think of other examples from Scripture (or from history) of people who became faithful followers of Jesus even though they once appeared to be unlikely converts?
2. In this passage, the Pharisees are horrified that Jesus is hanging out at the dinner table with tax collectors and "sinners," but Jesus does not accept their rebuke. (vv. 15-17) We are warned elsewhere in Scripture, however, not to love the world (see 1 John 2:15-17) and not to be conformed to the world (see Romans 12:2).
 - How can we best engage with unbelievers while remaining committed to having God transform us rather than the world?
 - Martin Luther called the church "the infirmary for those who are sick." How might thinking of the church that way help you as you reach out to people who *appear* to be the farthest away from making a commitment to Christ?
 - Discuss ways that we, perhaps unthinkingly, ask people to reform their behavior *before* they become Christians.
3. In the parable of the prodigal son, the "good" elder son needs the love and grace of his father as much as the "bad" younger son. (Luke 15:11-32) Here the self-righteous Pharisees fail to understand their need of redemption. (v. 17)
 - How do we detect our own self-righteousness? What can we do to prevent falling into self-righteousness? (See 1 Pet. 5:5b)
 - In Luke's account of the sinful woman who washed and anointed the feet of Jesus (7:36-50), Jesus says, "He who has been forgiven little, loves little." (v. 47) What sins do we tend to diminish or excuse, thus allowing us to feel good about ourselves and discount our own great need for a Savior and the amazing grace and forgiveness we have received?

Pray

Praise God for his perfect love.

Confess the many times you have been self-righteous and wanted to rely on your own "good works," instead of clinging to your Savior.

Thank God that he has admitted you to his "hospital for the sick."

Ask God to make the joy and wonder of your own salvation the means by which you are freed to risk entering the fray of the world without fear or contempt.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS
CRU Chattanooga, Aubrey Fritz

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS
City Team International