

# THE INVITATION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

## MARK 2:13-17

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MAY 18, 2025

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#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 2:13-17*

*13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. 15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."*

#### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What invitation(s) did you receive that you were concerned to accept?

#### SERMON RECAP

1. The invitation begins with a Person – Jesus.
  - Jesus saw Levi.
  - Jesus saw the choices, the pain, the shame, the longings—and still He moved toward Levi.
  - Jesus is walking toward you saying, "Follow me!"
  - Jesus saw Levi and He sees you!
2. The journey changes everything.
  - Jesus is the One for whom you were made...Only in a real, loving relationship with Him—the Son of God can your heart be reshaped, your identity reformed, and your life re-centered on what truly matters.
  - It's not just believing something new, it's becoming something new.
  - When we walk with Jesus, the love of Jesus starts to get into everything.
    - It doesn't just adjust your behavior—it transforms your desires.
    - It doesn't just change your schedule—it changes your values.
  - Jesus didn't come to invite us into religious routines. He came to call us into a relationship that changes everything.
3. The destination is beautiful.
  - Jesus calls us into the life for which we were made.
  - The invitation of Jesus isn't to escape this world—it's to be part of God's plan to restore it.
  - God describes the destination, differently than we might expect, in Revelation 21:3 "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people."

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read Mark 2:13-17 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - Whom do you see in verses 13-14?
  - Whom do you see in verses 15-16?
  - What does Jesus hear and what does He say in verse 17?
  - How would you summarize Mark 2:13-17 in your own words?

***Interpretation: What does the passage mean?***

1. Read Mark 2:13-14
  - What do you notice about Jesus in verse 13?
  - What does it mean that Jesus “saw” Levi?
  - What do you notice about Levi in verse 14?
  - How must Levi have “seen” Jesus – Why did Levi rise and follow Jesus?
2. Read Mark 2:15-17
  - What does verse 15 suggest about the people who reclined at the table with Jesus?
  - What does the question of the “scribes of the Pharisees” in verse 16 imply?
  - What do you learn from Jesus’ answer in verse 17?
  - How does a simple invitation...lead to a journey...that goes to a beautiful destination?

***Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?***

1. The invitation begins with a Person – Jesus.
  - How did Jesus “find” you when He “saw” you?
  - How did Jesus invite you to “follow Him?”
  - How did you feel when you first followed Jesus and how do you feel today?
  - How does Jesus continue to see you and to pursue you?
  - How can you and your Church Group help others to be seen by Jesus?
2. The journey changes everything.
  - How has following Jesus reshaped, reformed, and re-centered your life?
  - What are you becoming from what you believe?
  - How are your desires transforming?
  - How are your values changing?
  - How can your Church Group support you and support one another in the journey?
3. The destination is beautiful.
  - How close are you to living the life that Jesus made for you?
  - What are you doing to aid Jesus’ mission of restoration?
  - How do you envision heaven?
  - How does ensuring God is central to your vision of heaven enhance your perspective of heaven?
  - Take time in your Church Group to pray for one another’s transformational journey and God’s direction to participate in the Great Commission of human restoration.