



SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 2:13 – 17

THE HANG-UPS OF THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

Mark 2:16

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?"



Mark 2:13 – 14

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 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.

Mark 2:15 – 16

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. 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?"

Mark 2:17

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."



WAYSIDE CROSS MINISTRIES



Jesus makes the self-righteous uncomfortable.

- 1. Jesus calls undesirable people to be his disciples.**
- 
- 

JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.

Mark 2:13 – 14

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 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.

JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.

At the time of Christ, the people who collected taxes from the Jewish people for the Romans were considered the lowest of the low. When people encountered them, they asked themselves, "How could you betray your country in this way?". Not only did they collect taxes for the Romans, they collected more than was required to line their own pockets. People thought they were traitors just like we think of people who give our military secrets to the public.

JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.

Jesus understood this. Listen to how he uses this understanding to train the disciples when he teaches them how to discipline an unrepentant disciple.

Matthew 18:17

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.

But when Jesus saw tax collectors, people like Levi in our passage this morning, he saw a lost person in need of salvation. Jesus understood that any of these folks who were taking advantage of their people were doing wrong, but he also understood that it was going to require life transformation to turn them around. To Jesus, every sinner is a lowly beggar in need of help. He came to show all of us the way to salvation, not just the respectable sinners.



JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE
PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.



**Jesus welcomes the
undesirables into his family.**



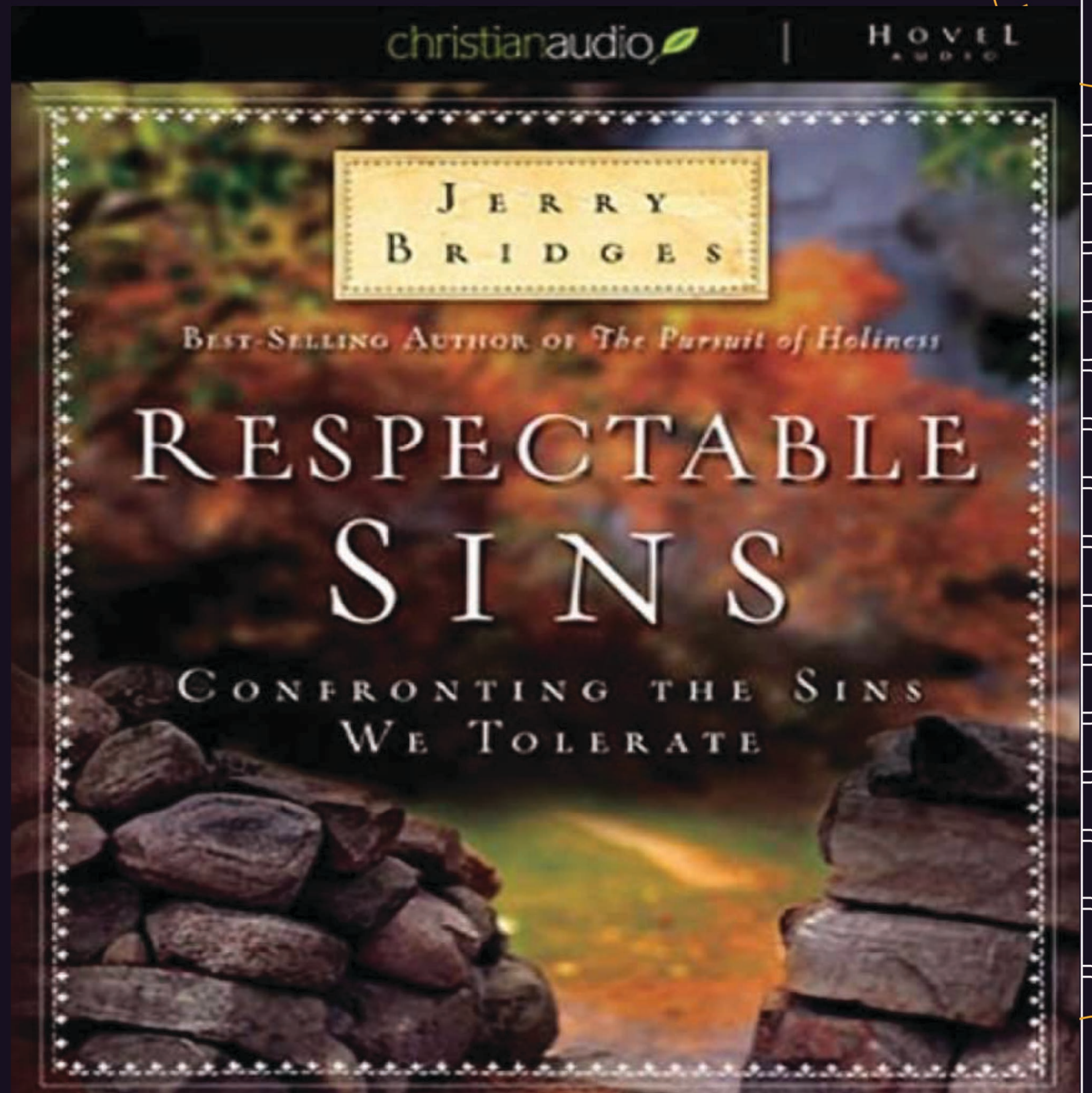
JESUS CALLS UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES.

Matthew 25:34 – 35

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



JESUS CALLS
UNDESIRABLE
PEOPLE
TO BE HIS
DISCIPLES.





Jesus makes the self-righteous uncomfortable.

1. Jesus calls undesirable people to be his disciples.
2. **Jesus socializes with undesirable people.**

JESUS SOCIALIZES WITH UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE.

Mark 2:15

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.

JESUS SOCIALIZES WITH UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE.

You know, it is one thing when we support missionaries that make disciples internationally or in places in our own country of poverty and hardship. But it is quite another thing when we bring people who are abused, formerly incarcerated, foreign refugees and the like into fellowship with us. When we create room for them at our table, the love expressed is as one song writer called it, "A Higher Love."

JESUS SOCIALIZES WITH UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE.

Jesus loved people like that. If you were a leper, you could come near him, if you were bleeding perpetually and were ceremonially unclean, you could come near him, if you were an adulterer, you could come near him. If you were a Gentile, outside of the family of God, you could come near him. With repentance and faith, he would welcome you into his family. We need Christians like that today.



JESUS SOCIALIZES WITH UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE.

Are you socializing with anyone that society says is undesirable? Or are you only hanging out with people just like yourself, you know, good respectable people?





Jesus makes the self-righteous uncomfortable.

1. Jesus calls undesirable people to be his disciples.
 2. Jesus socializes with undesirable people.
 3. **The self-righteous disapprove.**
- 
- 

THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS DISAPPROVE.

Mark 2:16

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?"

THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS DISAPPROVE.

Now the lawyers of the Pharisees were looking at what Jesus was doing and shaking their heads. They would never have intimate fellowship, they would never share a meal, with sinners the likes of these. This is how they believed God wanted them to sanctify themselves, to stay far away from the undesirables was to practice holiness before God, or so they thought.

THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS DISAPPROVE.



When humans set the standards for righteousness, grace for people not like themselves is removed. When you and I set the standard for righteousness, we look for people like ourselves...our ethnicity, our political party, our sins. Everybody else is too messy or too sinful.





THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS DISAPPROVE.

But when God looks down at all of us, he sees that all of our righteousness is like filthy rags (Is. 64:6). So, he sends Jesus to all of us and tells us if we want to be his children, if we want to be clean before him, then except the righteousness of Christ as a free gift.





THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS DISAPPROVE.

But when we accept Jesus' righteousness as a free gift:

- We can't look down upon the other folks Jesus calls into his family.
- We must develop a keen awareness of our own unworthiness.



Jesus makes the self-righteous uncomfortable.

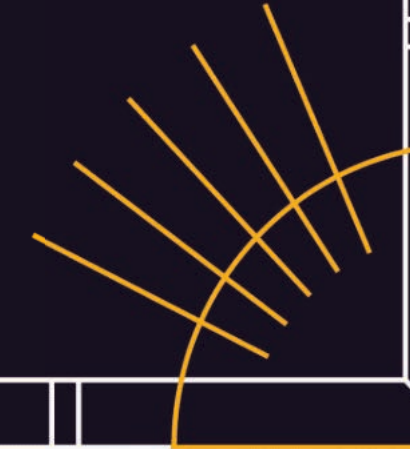

1. Jesus calls undesirable people to be his disciples.
 2. Jesus socializes with undesirable people.
 3. The self-righteous disapprove.
 4. **Jesus is targeting people who know they are not well.**
- 
- 



JESUS IS TARGETING PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY ARE NOT WELL.

Mark 2:17

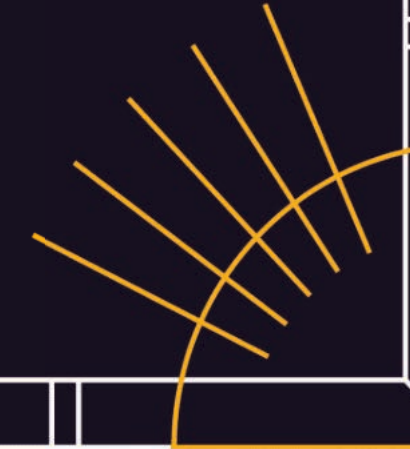

And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."





JESUS IS TARGETING PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY ARE NOT WELL.



This may very well be the secret of effective evangelism and discipleship. Focus on sharing the message with humble, hurting people. Focus on sharing the message with the poor in spirit...folks who know that they need help from outside of themselves.







JESUS IS TARGETING PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY ARE NOT WELL.

He trained his disciples before he sent them out two by two to villages in Israel to preach the gospel to everyone but not to sweat it when anyone did not receive their message. He said, let your peace return to you, and keep moving. Jesus taught that those worthy of the gospel, those worthy of Christ would receive him and everyone else would have to reap the fruit of their self-righteousness at his second coming.







Jesus makes the self-righteous uncomfortable.

1. Jesus calls undesirable people to be his disciples.
 2. Jesus socializes with undesirable people.
 3. The self-righteous disapprove.
 4. Jesus is targeting people who know they are not well.
- 
- 



JESUS MAKES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNCOMFORTABLE.

There is hope for the self-righteous. There must be because all sin is a form of self-righteousness. Sin is a way of telling God, "I don't care what you say. I am going to do things my way."



JESUS MAKES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNCOMFORTABLE.

Jesus encounters this when he runs into a Pharisee named Nicodemus. In John chapter 3 we read that He comes to see Jesus at night because he is afraid his peers, the rulers of the Jews, would see him. And Jesus attempts to save him from his self-righteousness.

JESUS MAKES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNCOMFORTABLE.

John 3:2 – 3

This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

JESUS MAKES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNCOMFORTABLE.



John 3:16 – 17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



JESUS MAKES THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS UNCOMFORTABLE.

The answer to the problem of the self-righteous is a new life in the Spirit of Christ. When the Spirit convicts us, we see that God is our righteousness and we learn to seek approval from him alone.



THE HANG-UPS OF THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

Mark 2:16

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?"

