



BEREAN  
SMALL GROUPS

FOR THE GOSPEL  
ROMANS 1:16

## Jesus Came to Be a Friend of Sinners

Mark 2:13-17

### Read Mark 2:13-17 Together:

*He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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?" <sup>17</sup> 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."*

### Studying the Text:

- ? Read Mark 2:13-14 again. Rather than walk past Matthew's tax booth and scoff, Jesus approached Matthew and welcomed him into his life. Who are some people we tend to avoid or think less of? How can we show them the welcoming love of Jesus this week?
- ? Read Mark 2:15 again. Here, we see that Jesus welcoming Matthew led to even more tax collectors coming and sharing a meal with him. How has Jesus welcoming you to a relationship with him opened your eyes to how you can welcome others? Who is someone you can share the love of Jesus with this week?
- ? Read Mark 2:16-17 again. Here, we learn that Jesus resists the self-righteous. What are some areas where you wrestle against self-righteousness? How can we encourage one another to live in humility?
- ? Read 1 Timothy 1:15. Pastor Deven encouraged us to confront our sin as a body of believers. How do Paul's words in 1 Timothy 1:15 empower us to do that?

### Further Study: Jesus Calls Sinners to Follow Him. Jesus Resists the Self-Righteous.

- ? Jesus calling sinners to follow him does not mean he approves of their sin. Jesus desires to transform sinners and set them free. How do we tend to do the opposite of transformation in our lives? How can we build relationships that have truth and love with transformation in Jesus as the goal?
- ? Read Luke 18:9-14. Talk about a time you've been like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. How does seeing the grace of Jesus encourage you to be like the tax collector who actively sought God's mercy? How can you remind yourself of the awe of God's grace this week?

- ? It's okay to admit that we're still struggling against sin and need healing. How does self-righteousness keep us from the hope and healing we need (and have readily available) in Jesus? How can we encourage one another in the fight against sin and admit where we need healing?

**Application:**

- ? Pastor Deven called us to examine our hearts and see who our "tax collectors and sinners" are. Take time this week to examine your heart toward those around you. What's one step you can take to show kindness and the love of Jesus toward those you harbor contempt, scorn, and judgment?
- ? Take some time each day this week to think of a way God's grace has shown up in your life. How does remembering God's grace encourage you to offer his grace to others?
- ? How can we, as a Small Group, welcome "tax collectors and sinners"? Is there someone you can invite to join us next week? Is there a way we can love and serve the neighborhood where we meet?