

THE TABLE

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Mark 2:13–17 (NLT) (13) Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. (14) As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. (15) Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) (16) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" (17) When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

1) Radical _____.

Mark 2:15 (NLT) (15) Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.)

2) Religious _____.

Mark 2:16 (NLT) (16) But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?"

3) Redemptive _____.

Mark 2:17 (NLT) (17) When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD'S LOVE?

1) God's love is _____ by our past.

Luke 15:11–24 (NLT) (11) To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. (12) The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. (13) "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. (14) About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. (15) He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. (16) The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. (17) "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! (18) I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, (19) and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." ' (20) "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. (21) His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' (22) "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. (23) And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, (24) for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

2) God's love _____ our brokenness.

John 4:28-42 (NLT) (28) The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, (29) "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" (30) So the people came streaming from the village to see him. (31) Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." (32) But Jesus replied, "I have a kind of food you know nothing about." (33) "Did someone bring him food while we were gone?" the disciples asked each other. (34) Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. (35) You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. (36) The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! (37) You know the saying, 'One plants and another harvests.' And it's true. (38) I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest." (39) Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" (40) When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, (41) long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. (42) Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

3) God's love _____ where there was despair.

Luke 23:39-43 (NLT) (39) One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" (40) But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? (41) We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." (42) Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." (43) And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*