

## Jesus Came for Sinners – Celebrate with Him!

Sept 19, 2021  
Mark 2:13-22

Pastor Mark Turner  
Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

### Review: A Quick Start

- John the Baptist announced the coming Messiah
- Jesus came to John to be baptized: identifying w/ sinners
- Heavens torn open, spirit descends, Father speaks
- Spirit drives Jesus to wilderness to be tempted
- Jesus overcame the temptations & began preaching
- Jesus heals, gathers disciples, prays and preaches
- Jesus even forgives sins, annoying the religious!

### Jesus Calls Sinners

- Levi was a despised tax collector, outcast, excommunicated
- Tax collectors were considered unclean by Pharisees
- But Jesus called Levi 'Follow me'; Levi leaves all & follows!

### A Conversion Party

- Jesus joins Levi & his friends<sup>Lk5:29</sup>
- Jesus is not violating God's law

### Who is Offended

- Pharisees saw primary religious duty: keeping the law
- Their 'hedges' didn't allow for eating people like that

### Jesus' Devastating Reply

- Jesus was confronting Pharisee's misplaced zeal
- Jesus was exposing their false holiness - contrast Mk 1:45. Pharisees claimed self-holiness; Jesus heals the humble
- Jesus was emphasizing repentance<sup>Mk1:45</sup> - Levi shows that!

### Questions on Fasting

- yet another confrontation – this time about fasting
- Pharisees fasted twice /wk; apparently also John's disciples
- God's law only required fast 1x/yr<sup>Lev16:29-34</sup>; 'afflict'<sup>31</sup>
- Fasting was seen as a 'work' to please God
- Jesus simply showed they were missing God's gift of Jesus!
- Now was not the time for fasting<sup>2:19-20</sup> - bridegroom present
- Jesus again claiming deity<sup>Isaiah62:5</sup>; the Kingdom is here!

### A Different Message than Expected

- Pharisees thought they could work their way back to God :(
  - All men are sinners, even our best works are not good enough.
  - God alone has met our need: Jesus is:
  - **Prophet** - declared God's message *repent & believe the gospel*<sup>Mk1:45</sup>
  - **Priest** - was our great High priest & the once for all sacrifice
  - **King** - Mark shows us Jesus' identity as King over all!

Let us follow Christ like Levi and celebrate God's grace and mercy to us by sharing the good news of Jesus with others!

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