

Application

1. Jesus loves sinners, no matter how far they have run from God.
2. Jesus didn't separate himself from sinners. He made time to eat with sinners to build friendships and share the gospel.
 - A. Get involved in a community activity where I can build friendships with people that need to know how much Jesus loves them.
 - B. This holiday season, throw a Matthew party. Have friends that don't know Jesus mix with friends that know Jesus to create opportunities to share about Jesus.
(Have a Matthew Party on New Year's Eve)

Life Group Questions

1. Why were tax collectors despised? What did Jesus do that was upsetting the scribes of the Pharisees? Why did he do it? What can we learn from Levi (Matthew) about the importance of making time to be with people that do not know how much Jesus loves them?
2. Read Luke 15:1-7. What is more pleasing to Jesus, a great worship service or a simple worship service where someone hears the gospel and repents of their sin? In your opinion, how should this guide the way a church structures their worship services?
3. Read Luke 15:8-10. Describe something you lost, how you searched for it and how you felt when you finally found it. This parable is intended to help us understand God's heart for the lost. What does it teach us about God's heart for the lost? How should our heart feel toward those who don't know Jesus?
4. Read Luke 15:11-32. This is often called the Parable of the Lost Son. In truth, it is more about the heart of the son that never left. When the parable finishes, which son is truly lost? What does this teach us about our cold, calloused hearts that don't go out of our way to create opportunities to share the gospel with those who will spend an eternity apart from Jesus? In what ways is God calling you to change the way you live?
5. Read Luke 7:36-39; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; 15:33. What kind of people should Christians distance themselves from? How does that change the way you think about Christians working together? How does that change the way you feel about Christians spending time with those far from Jesus in this world? When is it appropriate to limit your time with those who do not know God?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 2:13-17 – Jesus Loves Sinners

November 18, 2018

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Luke 7:34 (ESV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10 (ESV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:1-2 (ESV)

1. Jesus Called Levi.

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 2:13-14 (ESV)

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

He was teaching them.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, Mark 1:14 (ESV)

And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth,...

A. What is a tax collector?

Gabbai Tax Collectors — Collected property, income and state taxes. They were regulated.

Mokhes Tax Collectors — Collected road tolls, bridge tolls, import and export taxes. They were unregulated.

B. How did the Jews treat tax collectors?

...and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

2. Levi had a strategic party to introduce his friends to Jesus to his new Christian friends.

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. Mark 2:15 (ESV)

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. Luke 5:29 (ESV)

3. The religious elite didn't like the company Jesus kept.

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 2:16 (ESV)

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." Luke 19:5 (ESV)

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Luke 19:7 (ESV)

And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Luke 5:30 (ESV)

4. Jesus came to save the lost, not pander the saints.

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." Mark 2:17 (ESV)

Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick.

I came not to call the righteous, but the sinners.