

March 5, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 8)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Describe a time in your life where you needed to see a doctor. What happened and how serious was it?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 2:13-14. This is the place that Jesus calls Levi, son of Alphaeus, to follow Him. Levi's identity is about to be changed by Jesus' call. Levi was well known by his community to be a traitor to his people, a thief for the Romans and himself, and hated by everyone. Why do you think Jesus would call such a man to follow him? How does this calling show Jesus' ultimate mission? How do you see your story as it relates to Levi (Matthew's) calling?

Question 2: Read Mark 2:14-15. Jesus specifically calls Matthew (Levi) to follow Him. This phrase literally means to "come after me" or to "walk with me on the same road." This completely changes Matthew's idea of what it means to follow God. **Luke 5** shares that Levi "got up and left everything" after Jesus calls him. In what ways does Jesus ask us to "get up and follow him?" Notice Jesus didn't ask Levi to change before coming to Him, He asked him to simply "come."

Read Romans 2:4 How does this verse help you understand Jesus' kindness toward "tax-collectors and sinners?"

Question 3: Read Mark 2:15-16. Why do you think this made the Pharisees so upset? The teachers of the law were upset that a man with such spiritual influence would eat in the presence of such types of people. How does this make you think about the types of people you associate yourself with? Do you think that matters?

Question 4: Read Mark 2:16-17. This illustration that Jesus teaches is profound. It teaches the opposite of what everyone thought they needed to do to get to God. Instead of teaching God accepts "everyone who has already figured things out and doesn't need help" gets to God – Jesus teaches "everyone who recognizes they'll die without God's intervention and spiritual aid" gets to God. This was completely backwards to the religious world. How does this illustration help you apply the Gospel to your own heart?

Taking it Home

Reflect on these takes aways from the story: Which group would your spiritual heart align with right now?
How can Jesus help you with where you are at?

1. The “sick” need a doctor
2. The “social outcast” need a doctor
3. The “**self-righteous**” need a doctor

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?