Series: Goodnews
Passage: Mark 2:13-17
Sunday: February 22, 2026

Mark 2:13-17 (ESV)

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 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.

15 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. 16 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?" 17 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.

1. Why was it scandalous for Jesus to call Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him? Why were tax collectors seen as particularly despicable people?

2. What did Levi have to leave behind to follow Jesus? What does this show about the cost of discipleship?

3. Why are people categorized as "sinners" and "tax-collectors" (verse 15)? What made them different in the eyes of the scribes and Pharisees?

4. How does the scene of this dinner reveal the nature of grace and Jesus' character?

5. When have you acted more like a Pharisee, judging others rather than reaching out?

6. As you read Mark 2:17, who are the healthy and who are the sick? What was Jesus saying in this verse?

7. What was Jesus' purpose in eating and spending time with sinners? How can we follow Jesus' example with our unsaved friends?