

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 8, 2015

Passage: Mark 2:13-17

Memory Passage: Mark 2:16-17

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 2:13-17.** What was Jesus doing as he walked “beside the sea” and why is this important?
- (b) Why would there have been a tax booth next to the Sea of Galilee?
- (c) What similarities do you see between Levi’s call and the call of the other 4 disciples (1:16-20)?
- (d) Why were tax collectors so despised (cf. Matt. 11:18-19; 18:17; 21:31-32), and what does the fact that Jesus called a tax collector as one of His disciples convey about Jesus’ ministry?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 2:13-17.** In the first part of v. 15, to whom do the “he” and “his” refer (i.e. who reclined at whose house)?
- (b) The dinner guests are described as “tax collectors and sinners.” What does this say about how tax collectors were viewed?
- (c) What did table fellowship convey to the Pharisees about the relationships of the dinner guests to Jesus?
- (d) What does table fellowship convey about the relationship between people today?
- (e) What types of people do you invite to share meals around your table, and what does it convey about your relationships?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 2:13-17.** Why does Jesus’ guest list bother the scribes of the Pharisees? What conclusions are they drawing?
- (b) What makes these people “sinners” in the eyes of the Pharisees, and why are they opposed to tax collectors?
- (c) Why do you think the scribes posed their question to the disciples instead of directly to Jesus?
- (d) Put yourself in the place of one of these tax collectors or sinners and describe what this dinner would be like.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 2:13-17.** Explain how the “righteous” are akin to “those who are well” and “sinners” akin to “those who are sick.”
- (b) Is Jesus saying that there are indeed those who are righteous and not in need of having their sins forgiven? Explain.
- (c) How would the scribes define what makes a person “righteous” and how does their view differ from Jesus’ view?

(d) Think of the 21st century conservative American church: Who are their “scribes” and how do we recognize them? Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” that are despised and ignored?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 2:13-17.** In Day 2 I asked you to describe the types of people you invite to share your table and what that conveyed about your relationship to them. Today I want you to meditate upon and answer this: What types of people do you *not* invite to your table and what does their absence say about your desire to have a relationship with them?

(b) In what ways are you like the scribes in this story? Who would be the dinner guests you would disapprove of and why?

(c) Spend some time in prayer asking God to grant you repentance for your scribal tendencies, asking for a new vision for reaching out to those sinners whom you formerly shunned and disdained (even though you might not have thought you disdained them, their absence from your table and life is a practical admission of this), and a passion to reach them.

(d) Also in your prayer time ask the Lord how he would have Bible Church of Cabot reach these and other types of “tax collectors and sinners” and what your role in these ministries should be.

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A Scandalous Dinner Party