



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

Scriptures: Mark 2:13-17

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.
14 As he walked along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we continue our series through the Gospel of Mark. We'll explore a story where Jesus finds Himself among people of questionable reputation. Yet this scene is far more than a moment of social tension – it is deeply theological, revealing the heart of God's kingdom and what life looks like when sinners are welcomed to the table.

Sermon Questions:

1. Who would you not want to be seen in public with? Or to approach this differently, who wouldn't you want to be caught having lunch with? Share your answers and also reflect on how Jesus didn't have anyone that fit these categories.
2. Pastor Rich shared, the kingdom of God is what the world looks like when Jesus is in charge and when Jesus is in charge, sinners can be friends of God. Take some time to sit with and engage this profound statement.
3. "Follow me" is Jesus saying "Let _____ go and follow me." For Levi that meant his way of taking financial advantage of his fellow Jews. How would you fill in the blank? What kind of transformation has following Jesus meant for you?
4. What gets in the way of you being willing to risk your reputation for Jesus? Jesus didn't participate at the table with sinners in a neutral way or following their ways - but to show them a different, joyful, loving way of the kingdom of God. Who is Jesus inviting you to sit at the table with - in your family, your workplace, neighborhood, etc.? What is one way you can move towards these?
5. Only Jesus is righteous. We are all sick and in need of grace. How willing are you to admit that you are sick and where are you sick? Take some time to pray for one another and bring one another before Jesus.