

The Friend of Sinners
Let's Go
Mark 2:13-17
3-14-21

I. Jesus Calls the Unlovable to be His Friend.

Mark 2:13-14 – *“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.”*

1. Be with me.
2. See what I do.
3. Learn to follow me.

II. Jesus Calls the Undesirable to be His Friend.

Mark 2:15 – *“And as He reclined at the table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him.”*

Revelation 19:9 – *“And the angel said... ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...’”*

III. Jesus Calls the Unhealthy to be His Friend.

Mark 2:16-17 – *“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?’ 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.’”*

Gospel friends are people close to us who we trust due to their Christlike love and commitment.

1. Point us to Him.

Proverbs 12:26 – *“One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.”*

2. Loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17 – *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”*

3. Speaks words of truth and grace.

Proverbs 22:11– *“He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.”*

4. Sharpens us.

Proverbs 27:17 – *“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”*

Going Deeper This Week

1. Read Mark 2:13-17. What stands out to you?
2. What type of “sinner” is hard for you to love or befriend?
3. In what ways do you identify with Levi, the outcast tax collector?
4. Who all do you think Jesus would most hang out with today and why?
5. When are you most tempted to act like a harsh or legalistic Pharisee?
6. What do you teach your kids/family/friends to look for in a friend?
7. Why did Jesus have only a few friends and why is it okay to have only few “close” friends?
8. Pray for someone to trust in the Lord and also for the Easter gatherings at 9AM and 10:45AM.