



## PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

# MARK 2:13-17

## LESSON: CALLING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE-

January 5, 2025

### INTRODUCTION:

**CHAPTER 2:6-12** 2:6 Apparently, the ruling body in Jerusalem, the Sanhedrin, had heard about a prophet in Galilee who was carrying on an unusual ministry. So, the Sanhedrin sent a delegation to Capernaum to investigate Jesus. The Scribes mentioned in this verse are that delegation. Some of the "scribes" were sitting there, and when they heard Jesus forgive the man's sins, they immediately understood the point Jesus was declaring, and they began to reason in their minds and hearts. 2:7 How? "Why is this man blaspheming? Who can forgive sins but God only? Is He claiming to be God?" 2:8 Jesus had already perceived in His Spirit as to what's going on within their hearts. And He asked them a question: "Why reason ye these things in your hearts?" 2:9 Another question: "Is it easier to say to this man, "God has forgiven your sins", or to say "Stand up! Pick up your mat and walk"? 2:10 Jesus wanted them to know that He, the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins. 2:11 Jesus simply spoke the word "Arise" to the man, and the man walked, and he was to go to his own house himself. 2:12 The man walked before all as a living testimony to the power of Jesus to forgive and heal a man's whole being. They glorified God, and even proclaimed that they had never seen anything like this before.

### LESSON:

#### I. MARK 2:13-15

**2:13 And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.** The mass of people now flocking to Jesus were so many that no building or street was large enough to hold them. The leaders of the synagogue, the religionists were closing the door to Him, so, Jesus went forth by the Sea of Galilee. We see the faithfulness of Jesus in preaching and teaching despite the closed doors. A closed heart is a closed door in people who reject the entrance of truth of the Word of God! Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. No matter how lost, how outcast, or how bad a sinner is. Jesus came to save that person! The verse says, "*and all the multitude; which is a huge crowd resorted; gathered around Him by the seaside.*" He taught them! That's what God's servant should take hold of every opportunity to teach and share Christ and His kingdom!

**JESUS IS CALLING THE OUTCAST AND THE SINNER.**

**2:14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him. Follow me. And he arose and followed him.** At some point Jesus finished His teaching to the multitude, and was probably tired, and as He began walking along the seashore, He saw a soul aching, and needing His attention. He passed by a tax booth that had been set up to collect the taxes owed by incoming ships, and He stopped to witness to this man. Three things happened:

1. Jesus saw Levi, a tax-collector sitting at the receipt of custom. He's in charge of the tax station or office. He's the son of Alphaeus. In the Book of Matthew Jesus changed Levi's name to Matthew, but in the Book of Mark and Luke he is called Levi! Matthew's name means "*the gift of Jehovah.*" Now all tax-collectors were bitterly hated and



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ostracized. They were looked upon as traitors, outcasts, and sinners in the minds of the Jewish society; having sold their souls to the Roman authorities; thieves; cheats; extortionist; always adding to the legal fees in order to fill their own pockets. So, most tax-collectors were wealthy, and had a huge house; large parties toward the rich.

2. Jesus called Levi to abandon his profession, and said **"Follow Me!"** This tells us that Levi /Matthew, as a young man was consumed with a greed for wealth, and the so called good things of life. Something had become evident to Levi: the price he paid for wealth was not worth it. His heart was cut by the piercing eyes, singing words, isolation, and bitter hatred of the people. He ached for forgiveness and reconciliation, both with God, and with his people! Jesus saw the ache and the hurt, and appealed to him to abandon his sin of greed, and follow Him!
3. Levi arose and followed Jesus immediately.
  - a. Levi /Matthew already knew about Jesus, for Jesus has been teaching throughout all Galilee for over a year.
  - b. Levi /Matthew gave up everything. Jesus called a person who was a great outcast and a sinner, and this outcast and sinner gave up everything to follow Jesus! It cost him everything: his job and his enormous income. Most of the other disciples could return to their professions if things didn't work out, but this was not so for Levi /Matthew. When he committed his life to Jesus, he literally committed everything. The call of Jesus disrupted his whole life!

## JESUS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OUTCAST AND THE SINNER.

**2:15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.** Immediately after Matthew's conversion, he invited his associates and friends to a large feast (Lk.5:29). His friends were not the respectable people of society, but other tax-collectors (publicans), and sinners (foul-mouthed, angry, and rebellious). But Levi /Matthew had discovered something wonderful: a glorious peace, and joy of heart and mind. He had found it in Jesus, and he desperately wanted his friends to discover the same peace and joy. So, he planned a feast, and invited all his friends to meet Jesus!

- i. Levi / Matthew did not forget his sinful friends after his conversion. He wanted them to have the wonderful life-changing experience with Jesus that he had come to know.
- ii. The command of Jesus is for us to go to our families and neighbors and friends first.

Jesus gladly accepted the opportunity to meet with these outcasts and sinners. 1. He did not meet to condone their sin, but to turn them from their sin. 2. They were responsive to having their needs met. Yes, Jesus came to the feast and sat down and ate with publicans and sinners together along with His disciples. Jesus met them where they were; in their mess when they thought they were doing fine stealing from people! But it turned around for many, and they followed Jesus!

## II. MARK 2:16-17

### JESUS ANSWERED SOCIETY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE OUTCAST AND SINNER.

**2:16 And when the Scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto disciples. How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?—** Oh yes, there are always critiziers and complainers, for they are fearful of change. The Scribes and Pharisees saw Jesus eating with the publicans and sinners and asked Jesus' disciples how or why is it that He's doing such a



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thing; eating and drinking with the outcast and sinners. Christ cannot help people who are unwilling to confess their need. The outcast and sinners needed help, but the Scribes and Pharisees: self-righteous, self-sufficient, and self-dependent felt and saw no need to help them!

**2:17 When Jesus heard it he saith unto them. They that are whole have no need of the physician. But they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous. But sinners to repentance.** Jesus hears everything, and was ready to let these Scribes and Pharisees know what they needed to know. So, if they feel that they are above everyone else; that they are whole, well, they don't need a physician, but they that are sick, that's who Jesus came for. He's not calling the righteous, but He's calling the sinners to repentance! **First**, the religionists and respectable of society fear being criticized and judged by peers, friends, neighbors, and them withdrawing from them because of their association. **Second**, they fear being contaminated and led astray themselves. Think about this:

- how uncomfortable the outcast and sinner (even poorly dressed and unclean) feel in church and among believers today.
- how uncomfortable the church feels when the outcast and sinner is poorly dressed and unclean slip into services. Think of the enormous hesitation the poor have to overcome just to come into the church service! They slip in because they sense a need, yet how often they have to sit to the side by themselves.

The Scribes and Pharisees didn't go to Jesus, but to His disciples. Now, Jesus has to talk to them who think they are fine.

- The righteous do not know they need repentance! Sinners do!
- The righteous do not hear the call of Christ to repent!
- Christ declared that He is the Great Physician! He is the One who call men to Repentance!

## SUMMARY:

13 The mass of people now flocking to Jesus had to assemble by the seaside and He taught them. 14 And as Jesus passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him. **Follow me.** And Levi arose and followed Him. 15 So Levi planned a feast, and invited all his friends to meet Jesus! They responded to Jesus, and many turned around and followed Him! 16 However, the Scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus when they saw Him eating with the publicans and sinners along with His disciples. They asked His disciples how or why is it that He's doing such a thing; eating and drinking with the outcast and sinners. Christ cannot help people who are unwilling to confess their need. The outcast and sinners needed help, but the Scribes and Pharisees felt and saw no need to help them! 17 Jesus hears everything and is ready to let these Scribes and Pharisees know what they needed to know. So, if they feel that they are above everyone else; that they are whole, well, they don't need a physician, but they that are sick, that's who Jesus came for. He's not calling the righteous, but He's calling the sinners to repentance! (2:13-17).

## APPLICATION:

Being really committed to Jesus means giving your all. Jesus fulfilled His mandate, now it's time for His followers to take up the mantle and fulfill the responsibility with our ears, hands, and feet the message to sinners and calling them to repentance! His Plan is Our Plan!