

Jesus Calls Sinners
January 27, 2008
Mark 2:13-17

Synopsis:

We say we have Jesus in our heart.

But who is the Jesus in our heart?

When Jesus shows up he proclaims himself as the Kingdom of God—reach out and touch me.

What does the Kingdom of God look like?

In a series of four disputes with the Pharisees we find out.

I.

Four Disputes About the Kingdom

Mark 4:16 “Why does he eat with tax collectors?”

Flow of Mark’s Gospel: 4 disputes with Q and A (2:13-3:6)

What does the Kingdom look like?

READ: Notice Pharisee (Presbyterian) versus Jesus

2:13-17 Come back to this

2:18-22

 Question: Why don’t your disciples fast? 2:18

 Answer: K is about joy not gloom 2:19

2:23-28

 Question: Why are they breaking Sabbath 2:24

 Answer: K is Lord ruling not merely rules 2:28

3:1-6

 Question (Jesus): Do good or harm? 3:4

 Answer: No answer 3:4

 K is doing good

Three disputes about the kingdom

What does Kingdom look like?

 Kingdom is about joy

 Kingdom is about Jesus ruling not merely rules

 Kingdom is about doing good not harm

II.

A Dispute About Who’s Called

Mark 2:13 “Jesus went out again by the sea”

First dispute: Who's called to Kingdom?

READ 2:13-14

Who's called begins with where Jesus goes

Where did Jesus go?

- by the sea, out of his house
- to Levi's house (Luke)

Church Growth:

- We want more butts in the pews
- We want more people in here
- This is Christendom thinking

Jeff's training:

- scholar with a library (2:16 scribe of Pharisees?)
- uncomfortable going out there
- call people to meet me here

*Where is the Kingdom? Where is Jesus calling you to go?

- Where Jesus goes
- Not in our office
- Not in our comfort zone

III.

Jesus Calls the Wrong People

Mark 2:15 "As he sat at dinner in Levi's house"

Who's called to the Kingdom?

READ 2:16-17

Question: Why eat with sinners? 2:16

Answer: Come to call sinners? 2:17

What kinds of people would you like to come to Geneva?

- Folks that look like we do!

What kind of people did the Pharisees (Presbyterians) want?

- Pharisee =
 - "separate"
 - "righteous" from Psalms
 - Hasidim from Maccabees

- Liked rules: on time, dressed right, right music
- Discerning taste
- wanted righteous people = look like they do

What kind of people did Jesus invite?

Tax Collectors and Sinners: 4x in this story (Count them)

- Tax collector: Who is this?
 - Jew but not observant (relations with Gentiles)
 - traitors with occupiers
 - Border of Galilee and Gaulantis
 - tariff from goods coming into town
 - Toll booth
 - banned from synagogue
 - can't judge or witness
 - touch them, you're unclean

Levi (*Matthew* in Matthew 9, Mark 3 *Son of Alphaeus*,
Levi in Luke 5)

*Where are the undesirables?

Sinner: Who is this?

- Psalms LXX *wicked* Psalm 119
- not occasional sinners, but regular sinners
- reprobates:

*Where are the reprobates?

Who are the people not here? Undesirables, reprobates

- This is where Jesus begins his church growth strategy

IV.

Jesus Calls Sinners to Follow Him

Mark 2:17 "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners"

READ 2:13-15

What does it mean to have Jesus in our heart?

Thinking versus Following:

- Thinking: Assent to beliefs
- Mind not feet

-Head not heart

Most of us want:

Comfort

Look good

Control

Jesus says, "Follow me!"

-not comfort, not look good, no control

-Action to leave and follow

-1:16-20 fishermen leave jobs and follow

-2:14 Levi leaves and follows

Invite you during Lent: not to leave and follow

Lenten Series: = Jesus in our Heart

Come study (Jesus teaches) = Bible in Hands

Go follow (Jesus goes) = Feet out the Door