

On Being Communal, Part 2

A Study of Mark 2:13-17

Mark 2:13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. **14** 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. **15** And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

16 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?" **17** 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."

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Big Idea:

Mark 2:17 . . . "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick . . ."

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For Reflection & Discussion

1. If heaven would be so much better, why does God keep you on earth?
2. What do you think of Levi? Do you like this guy? Why or why not?
3. If you could talk to Levi right now, what question(s) would you ask him?
4. Which would be easier, being a part of a church that is inwardly focused (“just for us”) or being in one that is also outwardly focused (“it’s not just for us”). Why?
5. What do you think would be the distinguishing marks of a group of believers who are “for neighbors.” Give specific examples.
6. From a neighbor’s point of view, how would they know whether or not you are “for them.”
7. To what extent do you think you are “for neighbors?” Do you sense that the Lord is somehow encouraging you to make a change?
8. Here are some related Scriptures for further reading and reflection: Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:28-31; Acts 1:8; Romans 13:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 5:14; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 John 4:9-11.

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