



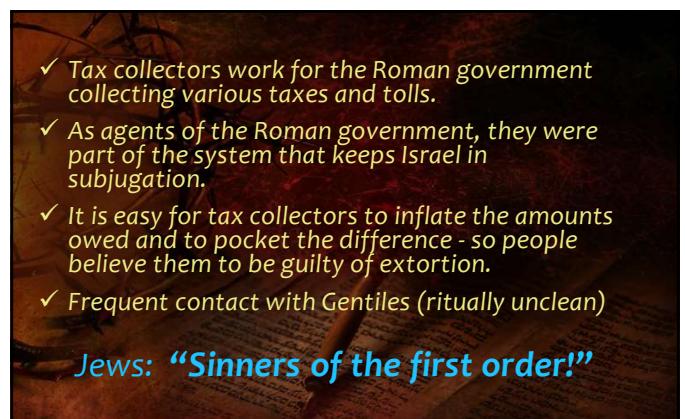
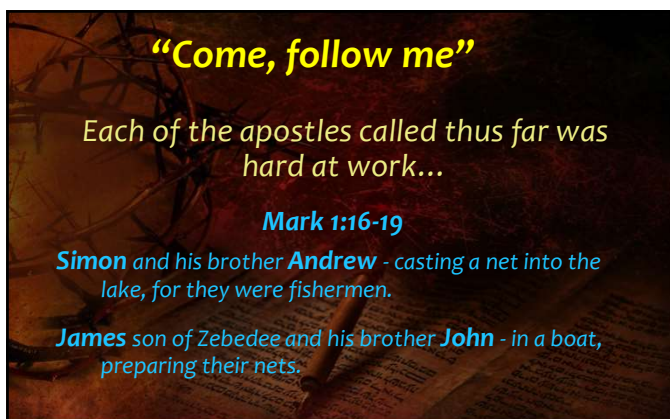
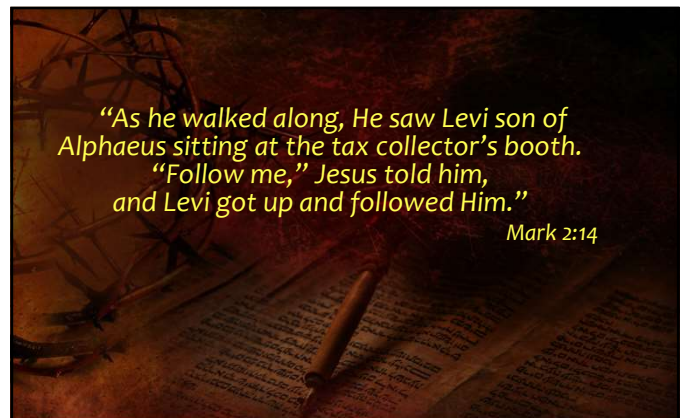
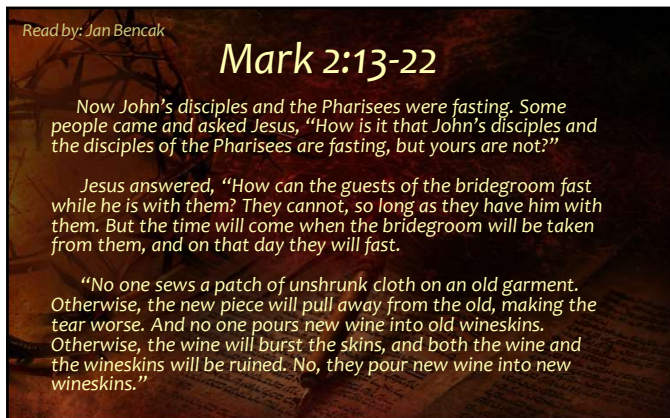
Read by: Jan Bencak

Mark 2:13-22

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 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.

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. 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?"

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.



Levi did not ask to be included or forgiven!

YET...

“He got up and followed!”

Mark 2:14

“For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’”

Romans 9:15

Levi did not ask to be included or forgiven!

YET...

“He got up and followed!”

Mark 2:14

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...”

John 6:44

“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.”

Mark 2:15

It is natural that Levi would invite tax collectors and sinners to his table. They are his only friends and the only ones who would accept his invitation.

“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?’”

Mark 2:16

Their question is actually a very good one!

In that culture –

Table fellowship... sharing a meal... implies friendship and even approval!

What then does Jesus’ eating with them imply?

Does he approve of tax collectors and sinners or endorse their behavior?

Is he uninterested in holiness?

Doesn’t he understand the bad example that he is setting by his association with these sinners?

Won’t his actions contribute to the moral decay of the nation?

Richard Niell Donovan - Biblical Commentary (Bible study) Mark 2:13-22

Scribes... Pharisees... Teachers of the Law...

“In principle...”

Devout men dedicated to honoring God by the faithful keeping of the Jewish law

- In the 1st century, scribes and Pharisees were two largely distinct groups, though presumably some scribes were Pharisees.
- Scribes – **a profession!** – They had knowledge of the law and executed **administrative tasks**. They could draft legal documents (contracts for marriage, divorce, loans, inheritance, mortgages, the sale of land, and the like).
- Every village had at least one scribe.

Scribes... Pharisees... Teachers of the Law...

“In principle...”

Devout men dedicated to honoring God by the faithful keeping of the Jewish law

- Pharisees (“the separated ones”) were an elite group of priests & experts in the Law and traditions (not necessarily Scriptural), which they interpreted and enforced.
- Their “center of activity” were the synagogues.
- Sect arose following deliverance from Greek occupation.
- Only people from old Pharisee families could become part of this priestly elite.

Scribes... Pharisees... Teachers of the Law...

However, they made two mistakes -

They became prideful!

... a spirit that quickly becomes an obstacle to spiritual growth.

They got lost in the minutia...

... and found themselves distracted from the law’s main purpose.

Mark has already recounted several instances where Jesus’ actions offended the Pharisees:

- He healed people on the sabbath (1:21-34)
- He touched a leper (1:41)
- He said to a paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you” (2:5)

Men have often sought –

To form God in our image!

To assume our understanding of “what’s right” IS right!

To remove the offense and make the path to God one that is predictable and socially acceptable.

“Tax Collectors and Sinners”

Lived outside the “established rules & traditions” and earned the ire of the Jews. Yet, more easily responded to the message of Christ!

“Pharisees and teachers of the law”

Clung to traditional morality and religious practices.

This passage takes a piercing look at the soul of the second group and makes a powerful plea for them to change their heart

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

“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.’”

Mark 2:17

Imagine physician who sought to avoid sick people!

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

“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.’”

Mark 2:17

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst.” 1 Timothy 2:15

“Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

“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.’”

Mark 2:17

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.” 1 Corinthians 15:10

“Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, ‘How is it that John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?’”

Mark 2:18

“... why are your disciples not fasting?”

This question follows on the heels of the accusing question...

“Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?”

E.g. – Come to think of it...

Why is He eating at all?

The only fasting required by Jewish law was in observance of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

Leviticus 16:29-31; 23:27

Could fasting occur on other days?
Absolutely, but it was not obligatory.

The only fasting required by Jewish law was in observance of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

After the Babylonian captivity of Israel, fasting became a weekly (Mondays & Thursdays) practice...

Not out of a yearning for God or brokenness over sin but “piety.”

Fasting is a denial of “self”

Normally involves abstinence from food (and sometimes drink) for a period of time to –

- Seek God’s presence or favor...
(I.e. - Demonstrate intense yearning!)
- Express grief or penitence
- Prepare oneself for prayer
- Seek divine revelation

“Jesus answered, ‘How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.’”

Mark 2:19-20

The Old Testament does not speak of the Messiah as bridegroom, but...

It DOES use that image for God
Isaiah 54:5; 62:5; Hosea 2:19

Jesus is therefore appropriating a Godly metaphor for his own use.

Richard Niell Donovan - Biblical Commentary (Bible study) Mark 2:13-22

Ancient Jewish Wedding

- Selection of the bride
- Groom travels to her home for the engagement service & celebration
- Groom returns home to “prepare a house” for his bride
- Groom returns to claim his bride
- Bride returns with the groom for the marriage celebration & to now join him in her new home

The time of “preparation” but also... the time of yearning!

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse.

And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

Mark 2:21-22

In Jesus’ day, wine was stored in goatskins.

- The skins cleaned, tanned and sewn back together to form a pouch.
- Fresh wineskins were pliable, flexible and stretchable.
- When new wine was poured into it, the gas released from the yeast during fermentation process would stretch the new wineskins.

In Jesus' day, wine was stored in goatskins.

- But over time, wineskins become brittle and ridged.

If someone were to put new wine in an old wineskin that had already expanded and hardened from its original supply of wine, it wouldn't be long before you heard a pop as the hardened skin began to crack and split. The wine was expanding but the old skin was too rigid to adapt to the new situation.

"new wine"

- 1) recently born, young, youthful
- 2) new
- 3) fresh; young

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new."

- 1) new
- 2) fresh, recent (as in substance)
- 3) An new kind; unprecedented

"For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

You can't get there
from here!

Be
"being filled"
with the Spirit...
Ephesians 5:18

Don't be drunk
with wine, because
that will ruin your life.
Instead, be
filled with the
Holy Spirit.

