

Ministry Methods Questioned (part 1)

Mark 2:13-18

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I. Public enemy number one. Mark 2:13-14

"He was disqualified as a judge or a witness in a court session; was excommunicated from the synagogue, and in the eyes of the community his _____ extended to his family." (William Lane)

- Even though the rest of Israel looked at Matthew as an enemy of the state and a despicable tax collector; Jesus saw a man who was _____ and in need of a Savior. **Matthew 5:48**

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you _____ to God from idols to serve the living and true God. NKJV

II. The scandal of grace. Mark 2:15-17

Imagine who would have been included within the list of friends, of a hated tax collector: the misfits, the _____ and the outcasts of Israel (prostitutes, adulterers, drunks, and thieves).

- Pharisee means "separated ones." They separated themselves from everything they thought was unholy; but, they thought everyone was separated from the love of God _____ them.

This account shows us the natural progression of the Christian life. Jesus pursued Matthew; he left everything from his _____ life behind, and he followed Jesus.

III. Why fast? Mark 2:18

Fasting is not just doing without food; we can fast from many things.

Fasting from food may not be wise for someone with health issues; so, fasting is not limited to _____ from food.

- The real purpose of fasting is for a follower of Christ to take our eyes off the things of this world and our flesh, in order to enable us to _____ completely on the Lord instead.

When we face things that are bigger than we can handle, we need to learn to _____ and many times fasting can help us focus on Jesus to do just that.

IV. Conclusion.

Like Levi, when we are called by the Lord, we _____ His commands, in His timing, and in His way.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 2:13-14**. Discuss Levi's identity. Describe the two types of tax collectors mentioned in the sermon. How would the people of Israel view Matthew as a person? How did Matthew show biblical repentance?
2 Corinthians 7:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Matthew 5:43-48
2. Read **Mark 2:15-17**. What kind of people would have associated with Matthew prior to his conversion? Why was it so scandalous for Jesus to eat with this group of people?
Luke 5:29, Luke 19:10, John 4:5-27
3. What does this story show us about treating and interacting with unsaved people?
John 17:11, 14-15, Matthew 28:18-20, John 17:14-16, John 15:19
4. What is the natural progression of someone who comes to Christ?
Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Ephesians 2:1-5
5. Read **Mark 2:18**. What is the purpose of fasting? Does a Christian get their prayers answered more when they fast? What did the Law of Moses teach about fasting prior to the cross?
1 Corinthians 7:5, Acts 13:2, Daniel 10:3, Luke 18:9-14, Daniel 9:3-5, Titus 3:4-5, Matthew 6:16-18
6. Discuss the practical application to this sermon.