

the gospel Jesus' good news for all

noun | Greek εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion)

On Sunday, Pastor Roger led us through the passage where Jesus first calls Levi then eats with Levi and his “sinner” friends. In this week’s lesson we’ll be exploring what Jesus’ good news for sinners is.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other’s prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION: Mark 2.13-17

13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. 14 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. 15 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. 16 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?" 17 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."

Note on tax collectors: Tax collectors were known to swindle money from their own people as they worked for the Romans and were therefore considered some of the worst of Jewish society. Similar to the leper and the paralytic from the last two passages, the tax collector would have also been an outcast in Jewish society. And as Pastor Roger noted in his sermon, the tax collector was a particular kind of outcast because he chose his profession and thereby made himself an outcast, whereas the leper and the paralytic had no such choice.

Introduction Question: What are some of the worst sins you have ever personally seen anyone commit?

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What does Jesus mean when he says to Levi, “Follow me”?
- Why might the teachers of the law and the Pharisees have been so disturbed by Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners?
- Who are the healthy and the sick that Jesus refers to?
 - o Were the tax collectors and sinners healthy or sick? Why or why not?
 - o What about the teachers of the law and the Pharisees?
- What makes someone righteous as opposed to a sinner?
- What is Jesus’ good news for the tax collectors and sinners? What about for the teachers of the law and the Pharisees?

Reflection Question: How might Jesus want us to engage with the sinners around us today? What is one way we can go out of our way to embrace “sinners” this week?

Small Groups: Break into groups of 3-4 to share about the reflection question and to pray for each other to actively bring Jesus’ good news to sinners this week.

MARK 2.13-17 – Jesus Eats with Sinners

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