

He Said What Part 2

I Came Not To Call The Righteous But Sinners

Mark 2:15-17, Matthew 9:10-13

Memory Verses: Matthew 2:17

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

The Pharisees tried to have Jesus arrested multiple times throughout his three year earthly ministry. One time in particular the Pharisees demanded an answer of the officers they had sent to take him. The only answer they could give according to **John 7:46** was, “no one ever spoke like this man.” It is true, no one ever spoke like Jesus. For one, no one could speak like Jesus because no one had authority like Jesus; he is God and he knows all things. For another, no one dared to speak like Jesus. Jesus said things that others might have believed, but dare never say out loud. [Next to the glory of God and his mission here on Earth to see the lost saved, Jesus simply doesn't care about traditions, rituals, customs, heritage or family practices.](#)

For example, just last week we heard him say some of the most audacious words a religious leader could ever utter. “I'll follow you, Jesus. Just let me first go bury my dead father.” “Nope, follow me and let the dead bury the dead; anyone who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is not worthy of the kingdom of heaven.” Or what about, “If anyone would follow me he must hate his father and mother and even his own life.” I'm not going to rehash all that Don said last week, but, He said what? I will say this, Jesus wasn't playing games. It was truly his way or the highway and if you couldn't keep up you'd get left behind. I hope you are beginning to see that the Christian life isn't haphazard. It's intentional and it takes perseverance.

Today we are going to look at another one of Jesus' crazy statements; “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” In fact, let's look at this statement in context starting in **Mark 2:15-17**. [Why is this statement seen as out of the box to us? Because many of us still live under the impression that Jesus is looking for a few good men... and or women. We are still under the illusion that Jesus is seeking for the best and brightest to add to his army so that we can help him win the culture war. Let me stop you right there. One, you can't help Jesus win the war. He's already won it. Now it's simply playing out to its eventual end. If you don't believe me, read the book, it tells you how it ends; victory in Jesus, my savior forever. Secondly, you aren't good, you aren't that bright, and you definitely aren't the best. No one is. No one is righteous, no not one.](#)

I guess this is why traditional Sunday church has always bothered

me a little bit. Growing up I would hear the way the kids at school would curse and tell dirty jokes and smoke weed and party and hook up with one another and then those same kids would put on suits with ties and show up to church Sunday morning and sing the hymns right next to me and praise God and act like this is normal! Let me tell you, that's not normal! Just because you look the part and act the part one hour a week doesn't mean anything to God! He knows who you are!

Why did they do that? I think it is because they were told that in order to be good with God they had to put on their Sunday best. That somehow God would be more pleased with them if they came pretending to be something they weren't. When I was old enough to read the Bible for myself I started to think, isn't that what the Pharisees did? And then I read this passage; **Luke 18:9-14**. It became clear to me in that moment that God isn't looking for those of us who have it all together, or more correctly, pretend to have it all together, but that he is looking for those who know they don't have it all together and are willing to let him fix them. The point this morning is simple; **“Your soul can only be saved when it realizes that it is utterly broken and beyond self restoration”**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **We Are Not Seeking Jesus As Much As He Is Seeking Us**. A big misconception of Christianity is that we must seek Jesus in order to find Him and be saved. There is some truth to that statement of course. Only those who desire Christ will ultimately put their faith and trust in Him. We do have a responsibility to put our faith in Him and repent of our sins. But before we could ever seek Him, he must seek us. Even our faith and ability to repent are gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit who comes for us long before we come for Him. **All spiritual transformation begins with Jesus drawing us to himself.**

Look again at **Mark 2:15-16**. The pharisees were shocked to see that Jesus would eat with sinners and tax collectors. Why? Because righteous people wouldn't be seen with the unrighteous. Just by being in their presence they were defiling themselves by proxy. If the sinful wanted to be saved they could seek out the righteous, but the righteous would never seek out the sinful... this just wasn't a part of the Jewish faith system at the time. But that's not how Jesus roles. He seeks sinners. **Luke 19:10** tells us that He came to seek and to save the lost. Aren't you glad that Jesus seeks the lost and goes and eats with them? No one is too far gone, or too sinful for Jesus. He will chase after anyone and he will show grace, love, and mercy to anyone! **Romans 2:4** says that It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance. So lets just assume that right now we are at the table with Christ. He has lowered himself to sit with us sinners. Do you recognize who is the sinner and who is the savior in this situation? Do you

recognize your need for Jesus to seek you? Aren't you so thankful that he has? **Your soul can only be saved when it realizes that it is utterly broken and beyond self restoration.**

Secondly, we need to see that... **We Are Way Sicker Than We Could Ever See.** If someone told you that they would go to the doctor once they were well enough to go you might think they were missing the point. You don't get well to see the doctor... doctors are for the sick. Look again at **Mark 2:17**. Jesus says that the reason he seeks out sinners is because it is the sick who need a physician. Now we recognize Jesus' mission a little more clearly. Doctors have a sense of purpose. Every doctor must take what we call the Hippocratic Oath. Here is a portion of it. **I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God. I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure. I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.**

Jesus came to the sick because he was on a mission. If you wait for the sick to come to you, many will die; especially if they don't even know they are sick. But if you take the cure to them then you have a much better chance to see them healed. The world is sick unto death and most of them do not even know it. **Romans 5:12** tells us that when Adam sinned in the garden all mankind was infected with the sickness of sin which leads to eternal spiritual death. Only those that recognize their sinful condition realize just how desperate their state is. And **only those who see a need for a physician are going to allow the great physician to heal them.**

Jesus will not violate the Hippocratic oath. He will not force his cure on people. He will present the cure and allow people to accept it or reject it. Do you see the need for the great physician to heal you of your sickness? Will you accept his cure? The blood of Christ, shed on the cross, is the antidote for the plague of sin. **Your soul can only be saved when it realizes that it is utterly broken and beyond self restoration.**

Lastly, we need to see that... **Our Sacrifices Are Utterly Insufficient**. Look at **Matthew 9:10-13**. This parallel passage adds one small detail that Mark leaves out. In **vs. 13** Jesus tells the pharisees to

go and learn what it means, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." Jesus is quoting from **Hosea 6:6**. In the book of Hosea God brings an indictment against Israel that they have become spiritual adulterers to the point that when they do their religious rituals and sacrifices they no longer mean anything. What's the point of a religious service if throughout the whole week you live like a pagan but then pretend to care about God just for the duration of the service? It's the same thing I was talking about when I was a kid and realized that all of my friends were just fake on Sundays. By quoting Hosea Jesus is saying, religion means nothing when your whole life is evil. Your religious sacrifices do nothing to help you because your heart isn't behind it. In essence, **your heart is too sick for your sacrifices to mean anything.** So instead of doing religious things to make up for your sin, change your heart. Well, that leaves us in a bind because we can't change our hearts. We don't know how. We are who we are right? So we need someone to change our hearts. And that's where Jesus steps in.

Have you gotten to the point yet where you recognize your religion won't save you? Only a changed heart from Jesus will give you new life. Only his love and mercy can overcome your sin sick life. Today, put down your sacrifices and pick up the salvation that can only be found in a relationship with Christ. **Your soul can only be saved when it realizes that it is utterly broken and beyond self restoration.**

Application

I'm not going to tell you where my doctor's office is because for the most part they are idiots. Not my doctor, no he's great, but the office is dumb. For example. When you show up sick they take your temp, put a mask on your face, and ask you if you are coughing, fever, etc.... and if you say yes to any of these questions they tell you you are too sick to be seen in person. I guess they are still worried about Covid? Who knows... but I think they are defeating the purpose don't you? Doctors offices are for the sick. But what about those who think they are already saved? What about those who think they aren't sick? What about those who think their religious sacrifices are good enough? They clearly don't think they need to be saved and so they won't seek after the cure in Christ.

Conclusion

Two things I want you to never forget. Jesus is seeking us and he will not quit, and you have to recognize your sin to be saved. You have to come to grips with the fact that in your sin you will die and go to hell and the only chance you have is the Jesus who seeks you first. Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners. Which one are you this morning? **Your soul can only be saved when it realizes that it is utterly broken and beyond self restoration.**