

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

Discussion Questions

Mark 2:13-17

Open It

What feelings or attitudes do most people have about the Internal Revenue Service?

When do you remember playing "follow the leader" as a kid?

Who are some controversial leaders that you know of? Why are they controversial?

Explore It

In what setting did the events of this story take place? (2:13)

What was Levi's status among his neighbors? (2:14)

What did Jesus want when He spoke to Levi? (2:14)

What was Levi's response to Jesus' words? (2:14)

What did Levi stand to lose by leaving his work to follow Jesus? (2:14)

Why is it significant that Jesus went to Levi's house for dinner? (2:14-15)

Who were the other dinner guests at Levi's house when Jesus had dinner with him? (2:15)

How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus' actions? (2:16)

What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees? (2:17)

What was it about Jesus' life-style and attitude that made the Pharisees so uncomfortable? (2:15-17)

Get It

Why do you think Jesus chose to ask Levi to be one of His followers?

Who would be the equivalent of a tax collector in our society?

What do you think Jesus' disciples thought when He went to Levi's house?

What do you think bystanders and other strangers thought of Jesus at this point?

Why do you think that people of ill repute were so attracted to Jesus?

How do churches tend to treat people like tax collectors?

Judging from this passage, how does God want to relate to us?

How should we view ourselves if we decide to respond to Christ's call?

How should we treat the outcasts of our society?

How do you personally need to respond to Jesus' call on your life?

What can you learn from Levi's example in this story?

What does this passage teach you about the best way to tell others about Christ?

When have you ever acted the same way that the Pharisees did in this story?

How can you follow Jesus' example of associating with people of low reputation?

Apply It

In what specific way can you honor or recognize a person of "lower status" this week?

What can you do to listen to Christ as He calls you?