

**Mark 2:14-17 — “Jesus Summons The Worst Sinner: Observe the Scandal of Grace!”**

You cannot search your heart too diligently, for this self-righteousness is the subtlest enemy of all. Beware of thinking, as the devil would have you, that the parable is a very good one for everybody else—but does not exactly touch your case. (JC Ryle)

**THESIS — Let’s worship & adore our *Sovereign Savior* who saves the worst sinner but rejects the self-righteous man.**

1. HOW CAN A MAN BE SAVED? [**HOW?**]
2. WHO CAN BE SAVED? [**WHO?**]

**I. HOW CAN A MAN BE SAVED? (v.14)**

A. sinful condition. — Jesus summons you in your sin.

B. sovereign call. — Jesus demands you follow Him.

C. complete submission. — You get up & follow Him completely.

this call for discipleship includes: full commitment, total allegiance, complete surrender, unqualified submission, continuous abiding. All whom God saves, He provides the sufficient & sustaining grace for this!

**II. WHO CAN BE SAVED? (15-17)**

- Jesus **action** (15) - eating w/ tax collectors & sinners
- Jews’ **protest** (16) - how do you eat w/ them
- Jesus’ **response** (17) - only the sick benefit from a Dr!

A. The available Savior.

B. The self-righteous.

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### **A Test to Gauge Where You Are Self Righteous**

- 1)The self-righteous see themselves as better than, not better together.
- 2)The self-righteous blame others for their failures rather than take ownership of them.
- 3)The self-righteous are selfish, not selfless.
- 4)The self-righteous are repulsive, not attractive.
- 5)The self-righteous see themselves as exclusive purists, not inclusive persons. (cliquish)
- 6)The self-righteous are haughty, not humble.
- 7)The self-righteous need more self, not more Jesus.

### C. Who goes to heaven — the humble, repentant sinner who casts Himself on Christ alone.

“Beware, you who are self-righteous, lest, because you put yourselves to be the head, God should make you the tail, for then all your Sabbath privileges, and gospel hearings, will be like millstones about your necks, to sink you low as the lowest Hell....God commands you to stop doting upon your own imagined beauties and worshiping your own foolish image. Look first to the holy God and tremble. Can you, of yourself, ever be like him, pure, spotless, and glorious? Can you ever hope to deserve anything of him? Look to him and despair over your sin... Realize this: In the heights and depths of dying love I read the heights and depths of my-accursed sin; in the infinity of the atonement I read the boundless blackness of my guilt, and lie humble before God. At the same time in that perfect righteousness divine, which has put away sin, I see the hope of a sinner, and as a sinner I look to Christ for everything.” **(Charles Spurgeon)**

### **MARVELOUS GRACE OF OUR LOVING LORD**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

**Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

Sin and despair like the sea-waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater— yes, grace untold—  
Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
All who are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

### **WHEN JESUS CALLED TO MATTHEW** [tune: Church's One Foundation]

When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"  
That tax collector listened and followed willingly.  
He left his work behind him and changed his life that day;  
For nothing could be better than living Jesus' way.

Where Jesus offered mercy, the Pharisees saw sin;  
"They said, "He welcomes sinners and even eats with them."  
Yet Jesus knew God's table should be a welcome place;  
To Matthew and to others, he offered words of grace.

We wonder what he witnessed — what Matthew heard and saw.  
Did Jesus' teaching leave him in wonder and in awe?  
As Matthew heard Christ preaching, as Matthew went to serve,  
Did he recall forgiveness that he did not deserve?

When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"  
The Lord was busy building a new community.  
He built a church that centered on Christ-bestowing grace:  
God's reign is one of welcome! God's summons changes lives!