



Mark 2

This topic just kept popping up for me

Tonight's lesson is going to be really grey

This isn't what I was taught in youth group

*you can ride your bike with training wheels your whole life but it's a lot more fun not to

I believe you guys are mature enough to handle this

Mark 2:13-17

-Out of all the people following Jesus he calls a tax collector to his inner circle

-Tax collectors were generally crooked men who were hated by the public

-God can save anyone he chooses to (The evil man or religious one)

*We need to remember that we are not as worthy of salvation as we think and that others are not as far from salvation as we think

-Levi then has a dinner for Jesus to meet all his tax collector and sinner friends

1) Levi had found something valuable in Jesus and he wanted all his friends to see it too

-Jesus didn't have to tell him to have a dinner. Levi did it out of joy.

*We share Jesus' love with people because it's important and valuable to us

*When we don't share Jesus love we either don't value Jesus or we're selfish

2) Jesus shares a meal with these sinners

-Jesus actually does life with people who aren't following God and don't have the best reputation

-Jesus doesn't isolate himself like the Pharisees

-Jesus doesn't just had them a track quick and leave

-Jesus has a relationship with them

-Many of them followed him

-Jesus didn't stay away from "bad" people

-He didn't just have "church" friends

-Reaching out wasn't just a flyer and one conversation

*We can't just stay in a Christian bubble. We need to build relationships with people outside the church and genuinely care for them and enjoy them as people

*It's good to have friends that aren't Christians

-Jesus influenced them to follow him. He didn't get caught in their sin.

*We need to be strong in our commitment to Jesus and not get drawn away from him

*We also need to know our limits and what people and things will lead us astray

*We may not be able to be around certain people or be a part of certain things

-Don't hide in the Christian bubble but also be strong and wise so you don't get led away

Small Group Questions

1) Who are some people around you that you might be overlooking? How can you reach out to them?

2) Are you being an influencer or are you being influenced?

3) How are you showing the love of Jesus to people around you?