

Why are You **HERE?**

Mark 2:13-22

TWO THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

The way Jesus treated people then,
is the way that He treats us now.

The way Jesus treated people then,
is the way that He expects us to treat people now.

1st CENTURY TERMS:

Tax Collector:

Eating dinner at Levi's:

Pharisees:

Fasting with the Bridegroom:

Sewing tips:

Wineskins:

21st CENTURY APPLICATION:

A physician only helps those who know they are sick.

Religion is about membership and rules,
Jesus is about relationships.

Why are you here today?

Food for Thought

For the week of March 18, 2007

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we heard how Jesus usually doesn't fit the box or description we give Him. The life He lived and the instructions He and His disciples gave us in Scripture are oftentimes contrary to how many people live or think. What's contrary about the instructions given in the following verses?

Matthew 5:33-42

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' [34] But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. [36] And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. [37] Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

[38] "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' [39] But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. [NIV]

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. [NIV]

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. [3] And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. [4] Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. [5] Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. [6] Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. [NIV]

Galatians 6:1-5

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. [2] Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. [3] If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, [5] for each one should carry his own load.

Is there one you're better at than the other? Is there one you need to further develop?

2. No one can be too sick to see their primary doctor, just as no one can be too sick to see Jesus. Unfortunately, we at times can see some people as too sick to really give them a chance to see Jesus through the actions and attitudes we show them. How can the following verses help us create “new wineskins” or new avenues to accept and impact others?

Matthew 5:46-47

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? [NIV]

Romans 3:22-24

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" [22] On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, [23] and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, [24] while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, [25] so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. [26] If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. [NIV]

Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

[5] Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: [NIV]

3. To get help from Jesus a person has to realize they are “sick” and need His help. How is this need revealed by David in Psalm 32? What other comments does David make that help you understand this perspective in a healthy way?

Psalm 32:1-11

Of David. A maskil.

Blessed is he
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

[2] Blessed is the man
whose sin the Lord does not count against him
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

[3] When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

[4] For day and night

your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

Selah

[5] Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord"--
and you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

Selah

[6] Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you
while you may be found;
surely when the mighty waters rise,
they will not reach him.

[7] You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Selah

[8] I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you.

[9] Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.

[10] Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the man who trusts in him.

[11] Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart! [NIV]

How does your understanding of yourself and the way you live life reflect your need for Jesus? Is there anything you need to adjust or change in how you view your need for Jesus?