

## THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

**Mark 2:13-17** (ESV) <sup>13</sup> He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. <sup>15</sup> And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>17</sup> And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

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**Introduction:** The Pharisees labeled Jesus the “friend of sinners.” This is not a compliment. They were heaping scorn and contempt upon his ministry. In Matt 11:19, they said “Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” How fitting that such a statement would be recorded by Matthew, a former tax collector. Mark records the meeting where Jesus chooses Matthew/Levi to be his disciple. Jesus invited a tax collector into his inner circle.

I. **The Meeting** — vv. 13-14

II. **The Meal** — vv. 15-16

III. **The Mission** — v. 17