

MARK

Mark Wk.6
Mk. 2:13-17

General:

- When you think about your normal week, who are the kinds of people you naturally spend time with? Who are the kinds of people you tend to avoid?
- Jesus often took time away from crowds, but we see Him re-engage with people quickly. What's the difference between healthy withdrawal and avoiding people altogether?
- In that culture, "reclining at table" meant acceptance and shared relationship. What do you think it would have felt like to be one of those people sitting at the table with Jesus?
- Verse 15 says: "Many tax collectors and sinners... followed him." Why do you think people who were labeled as "sinners" were so drawn to Jesus?
- Jesus says He came for the sick, not the healthy (verse 17). What does that reveal about who He moves toward?
- Think and reflect. Who is one person in your life that you typically overlook, avoid, or keep at a distance? What would it look like to intentionally move toward them this week?

Take Home 1: Intentionally create conditions for transformation in people (Mk. 2:14)

- What does it mean in practice to create spaces where people can “belong before they believe”?
- Where do you feel the tension between being welcoming to people and holding to truth?
- How often do you slow down long enough to understand someone’s story before forming an opinion about them?
- Why do we tend to judge people based on their circumstances or situation? Why is it so easy to give people labels?

Take Home 2: Learn to see the best in others (Mk. 2:14,16)

- Jesus saw something in Levi, but all the Pharisees saw were sinners. Is it more natural for you to notice what’s wrong in people or what God might be doing in them?
- How do we see others the way that God sees us?
- Do you tend to move toward people you know or are comfortable with? What would it look like this week to move toward someone you normally wouldn’t?
- If people who are far from God were to describe how they feel around you, what do you think they would say?

Take Home 3: Realize “moral clarity” can lead to spiritual blindness (Mk. 2:16)

- Pastor Chip emphasized what the Pharisees could (and couldn’t) see due to their moral clarity. What does it look like for “being right” to slowly turn into spiritual blindness?
- Have you ever been so convinced you were right about something that it affected how you saw or treated someone else?
- Where do you personally feel the tension between showing grace and avoiding compromise?