



**This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. 1 John 2:5b-6**

**A Startling Statement: Mark 1:1**

**Beginning of the good news about Jesus, Messiah and Son of God**

Proof #1: Prophets (Mark 1:2-8)

Proof #2: God The Spirit & God The Father (Mark 1:9-11)

Proof #3: Passed the Test of Satan (Mark 1:12-13)

**Jesus takes center stage (Mark 1:14-15)**

**Action Step #1: Repent and Believe!**

**Jesus calls common people to be His disciples (Mark 1:17-20)**

**Action Step #2: Follow Jesus**

**Jesus reached out in love & healed a man with leprosy (Mark 1:40-42)**

**Action Step #3: Be filled with compassion then reach out to someone**

**Mark 2:1-28: 4 Stories of Jesus in Action**

1. Jesus forgave then healed a paralyzed man (vs.1-12)
2. Jesus called Levi and had a party with sinners & His disciples(vs.13-17)
3. Jesus was questioned about fasting (vs.18-22)
4. Jesus was questioned about the Sabbath (vs.23-28)

Underlying Issue in Chapter 2: Conflict w/Jewish Religious Leaders (The JRL)

**Mark 2:13-17: A Party with a Purpose**

**Mark 2:13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.**

Lesson: When people gathered, Jesus taught

**Bonus Action Step: When you gather with people, teach The Truth.**

(remember 2 Corinthians 5:20)

**Mark 2:14** As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

As he (Jesus) walked along: a great caravan route that ran through Capernaum  
Levi: name before becoming a disciple—Matthew name after becoming a disciple (Matthew = gift to the Lord)

Tax collector's booth: toll booth, custom stop, revenue stand for the Roman government

Tax Collectors: Traitors, Swindlers, Despised, Hated, Detested & Unclean

They Chose money over people

Follow Me.....Followed Him: a strong call and a decisive act

**Mark 2:15:** While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

It comes to pass: an interval of time

He reclines in the house of him: position of eating in the 1<sup>st</sup> century at a social gathering

Sinners: known violators of The Law or ones who chose not to follow all the rules & laws established by the JRL

**Mark 2:16** When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

Scribes: professional interpreters of the Jewish Law who were Pharisees—experts in knowing and interpreting the written & oral Law

Saw him: by now they kept a close watch on Jesus

**Mark 2:17** On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

LOGIC: Jesus not associating with sinners is like a doctor not willing to associate with sick people

The Righteous: those who refused to admit that they needed forgiveness & restoration

Jesus' Mission Statement: Targeting those who realize they are sinners not those who think they are righteous (see Luke 19:10)

**The Result:....Many followed him (v.15c)**

#### **Action Step #4: Throw (or be part of) a Matthew Party**

IDEAS Have a Social Event —invite Christian friends and pre-Christian friends

- Go Recreate---invite Christian and pre-Christian friends to golf, fishing, camping, bike riding, hiking, bowling or simply take a walk
- Watching the Game---invite Christian & pre-Christian friends over to watch football, baseball, basketball—a Super Bowl Party
- Church Events —invite pre-Christians to the Guys Night Out, LOVE Banquet, VBS, Worship, Potlucks, Kickball Tournament, All Church Picnic, Other
- Coffee & Restaurants —invite Christian and Pre-Christian friends out or over for coffee and/or out to eat
- Beach It----invite Christian and Pre-Christian friends for an afternoon at the beach—walk on the sea wall!
- **Suggestion: partner with other Christians**

**When is Your Next Party with a Purpose?**