

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

THE SICK NEED A PHYSICIAN

Mark 2:17 “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

Sometimes the obvious is not so obvious. Such was the case with Jesus inviting Levi to become one of His disciples. In the eyes of the Pharisees, and probably many in the general Jewish population, Levi was unfit for Jesus’ attention. Tax collectors were common thieves who used their government position to steal money by assessing higher taxes than were due and personally pocketing the excess. It is taken for granted Levi the tax collector was a thief like the rest of them.

Worse yet, Jesus accepted Levi’s dinner invitation. Mark 1:15, “And as He (Jesus) reclined at table in his (Levi’s) house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus.” No self-respecting Jew would do such a thing. For sure no Rabbi would dine with such a despicable sinner.

Jesus’ critics, the Scribes and Pharisees, were appalled that Jesus ate with this despised group of people. Jesus overheard them grumbling, complaining and criticizing Him for the company He was keeping. 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.” (Mark 2:17)

You may not want to admit that you look around at who is attending your church. Your sinful nature is quick to spot the person, couple or family that doesn’t seem to fit your congregation’s demographics. Worse yet, you see someone worshipping you know who has spent time in jail, is the town drunk, etc. You think to yourself, “What is he/she doing here in our church?”

On another occasion, Jesus said to Zaccheus, also a tax collector, with whom Jesus ate, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) Jesus came into the world as its Savior. (Matthew 1:21) Jesus shed His blood for you, a “Poor Miserable Sinner.” He shed it not just for you, but for all who have sinned and

fallen short of the glory of God. His blood is sufficient to cleanse you and all of the guilt and condemnation of their sins. Jesus came to minister to the spiritually sick in danger of dying eternally.

Prayer: Cause me, O Lord, to rejoice when I see you with sinners knowing that not only, they but also, I need what only you can give, namely, forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. In Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing.
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.
(LSB 609, vv. 1-3,7)