



Middle of the Mess

By Terry Kountz on May 12, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Mark 2

Jesus was known for pushing the boundaries of what people of His time deemed socially acceptable. He went places other religious people would not go. He talked to people other religious people would never speak to. He was after relationships rather than rule following.

In Mark 2, Jesus has dinner with a group of tax collectors and sinners. When the religious teachers saw this, they immediately questioned Jesus' motives. They did not understand why He would allow himself to be seen with people they would not associate with. When Jesus heard their questions, He replied, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

Jesus knew those who were self-righteous, like the religious rule followers who questioned Him, did not see their need for a Savior. But sinners, like those He ate dinner with, did. Sinners are exactly who Jesus came to save, and we all fall into that category. Jesus went to Levi's house for dinner, meeting tax collectors and sinners in their comfort zones. They did not have to clean up for Him, follow a set of rules or change who they were to meet Jesus. The same goes for us today. Jesus does not ask us to be perfect before we can know Him. He is always willing to meet us in the middle of our mess.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the grace You show me. Help me show that same grace to others.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 3

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