SERMON NOTES



APRIL 19, 2020

Why Does He Eat With Sinners?

Mark 2:13-3:6 Tony Chute, Interim Pastor

Overview: Although the coming of Jesus was in perfect fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, the ministry of Jesus took shape in a way that was entirely unexpected. Instead of distancing Himself from the religiously disqualified or unqualified, Jesus intentionally reached out to those whom the religious establishment had forgotten. Jesus then formed a group of disciples that were not hindered by false expectations or man-made traditions; rather, they were set free by true biblical interpretation. Consequently, they found joy instead of melancholy; freedom instead of legality; and healing instead of misery. Mark's description of discipleship in the earliest days of Jesus's ministry provides wonderful insights into the words, "Follow Me."

01. Following Jesus does not require us to live in isolation from the world; rather, it enables us to engage everyone made in the image of God.

02. Following Jesus does not require us to live as prisoners of this world; rather, it enables us to experience joy in the presence of God.

03. Following Jesus does not require us to live for approval from this world; rather, it enables us to have confidence in our standing before God.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & DISCOVERY

1. What reputation accompanied those who collected taxes for the Roman government? How could Jesus's call for Levi (Matthew) to become a disciple have resulted in "bad publicity" for Jesus's early ministry? What does Jesus's call to Levi suggest about His concern or lack thereof about being identified with sinners?

2. What does the text suggest about the level of interest in Jesus's ministry from others who were considered unworthy to follow Him? How can the church reach out to such people today without abandoning or violating biblical teaching about sin? Are you a positive Christian influence among your non-Christian friends?

3. Jesus's ministry was unpredictable in the sense that He rejected human tradition in favor of true biblical interpretation. What areas of Christian living do you find are more rooted in tradition than Scripture? What is the proper balance between keeping an open mind to new ideas and closing off options that would lead us astray from God's Word?

4. Notice how frequently questions are asked about Jesus and His ministry (2:16, 18, 24, and by implication, 3:2). When was the last time anyone asked you about what Christians believe or why Christians behave in a certain way? How did you answer them?

5. When Jesus declares Himself to be "Lord of the Sabbath," He is making a statement about His authority to interpret Scripture correctly. How is this truth displayed in 3:1-6? What leads to Jesus's visceral reaction in 3:5, and how does our knowledge of Jesus's emotions compel us to view Him as the final authoritative interpreter of all Scripture?

For Further Reading: Andrew Randall, Following Jesus: The Essentials of Christian Discipleship (Banner of Truth, 2018)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING

Verse 1
Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of heaven to earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, Thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart

Verse 2
Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find the promised rest
Take away our bent to sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith as its beginning
Set our hearts at liberty

Verse 3
Come, Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy grace receive
Suddenly return and never
Nevermore Thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love

Verse 4
Finish then, Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory

'Till in heaven we take our place 'Till we cast our crowns before Thee Love in wonder, love, and praise

Tag
Lost in wonder, love, and praise
Sing praise

CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

Verse 1
What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand

Chorus

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal O sing Hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ?

Chorus

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal O sing Hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 3

Unto the grave, what shall we sing? "Christ He lives! Christ He lives!" And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him There we will rise to meet the Lord Then sin and death will be destroyed And we will feast in endless joy When Christ is ours forevermore

Chorus

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal O sing Hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death

Chorus

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal O sing Hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death

Tag

Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Verse 1

There is an endless song, echoes in my soul I hear the music ring
And though the storms may come
I am holding on to the rock I cling

Chorus

How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough How amazing is Your love?

Chorus (cont)

How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes my heart want to sing

Verse 2

I will lift my eyes in the darkness night For I know my Savior lives And I will walk with You knowing You see me through and sing the songs You give

Chorus

How can I keep from singing Your praise?
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Your love?
How can I keep from shouting Your name?
I know I am loved by the King
and it makes my heart want to sing

Bridge

I can sing in the troubled times, sing when I win
I can sing when I lose my step and I fall down again
I can sing 'cause You pick me up
Sing 'cause You're there
I can sing 'cause You hear me Lord
When I call to You in prayer
I can sing with my last breath, sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
and the saints around the throne

Chorus

How can I keep from singing Your praise? How can I ever say enough How amazing is Your love? How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes my heart want to sing

Tag

I know I am loved by the King and it makes my heart want to sing

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me? I was lost but He brought me in Oh, His love for me Oh, His love for me

Chorus

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Verse 2

Free at last, He has ransomed His grace runs deep While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me Yes, He died for me

Chorus

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God, yes I am! In my Father's house There's a place for me I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Bridge

I am chosen, not forsaken I am who You say I am You are for me, not against me I am who You say I am

Bridge

I am chosen, not forsaken I am who You say I am You are for me, not against me I am who You say I am I am who You say I am

Chorus

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God, yes I am! In my Father's house There's a place for me I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Tag

In my Father's house There's a place for me I'm a child of God, yes I am!

LOVE CAME DOWN

Verse 1

If my heart is overwhelmed
And I cannot hear Your voice
I'll hold on to what is true
Though I cannot see
If the storms of life they come
And the road ahead gets steep
I will lift these hands in faith
I will believe

Pre-chorus

I'll remind myself of all that You've done and the life I have because of Your Son

Chorus

Love came down and rescued me
Love came down and set me free
and I am Yours, I am forever Yours
Mountain high or valley low
I sing out remind my soul that I am Yours
I am forever Yours

Verse 2

When my heart is filled with hope and every promise comes my way When I feel Your hands of grace rest up on me Staying desperate for You, God Staying humbled at Your feet I will lift these hands and praise I will believe

Pre-chorus

I'll remind myself of all that You've done and the life I have because of Your Son

Chorus

Love came down and rescued me
Love came down and set me free
and I am Yours, I am forever Yours
Mountain high or valley low
I sing out remind my soul that I am Yours
I am forever Yours

Bridge

I am Yours, I am Yours For all my days Jesus I am Yours

Bridge

I am Yours, I am Yours For all my days Jesus I am Yours

Bridge

I am Yours, I am Yours For all my days Jesus I am Yours

AMAZING LOVE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Verse 1

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me I once was lost but now I'm found T'was blind but now I see

Verse 2

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free! My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood, His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free! My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood, His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to shine But God, who called me here below Will be forever mine Will be forever mine

Tag

You are forever mine You are forever mine

Tag

You are forever mine You are forever mine

Chorus

My chains are gone
I've been set free!
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood, His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

Chorus
My chains are gone
I've been set free!
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood, His mercy reigns

Tag 2
Amazing love, amazing grace
Amazing love, amazing grace

Unending love, amazing grace