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## *Come To The Table* *Day 2: Verse 2*

Come meet this motley crew of misfits  
These liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
That sin and shame that you brought with you  
You can leave it at the door  
And Let mercy draw you near

### *Scripture Reference*

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. 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?"

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."

- *Mark 2: 15-17*



We'll spend Day 2 in Mark again, but this time focusing on a particular meal Jesus shared. Shortly before our passage today, Jesus spoke to Levi "Follow me." At that time, Levi was a tax collector. In that day, a tax collector was extremely disliked by the people. They were considered traitors serving the Roman government and even thieves for keeping any surplus taxes they often collected. They were outcasts of society. And yet, Jesus told Levi to follow him. Many people believe Levi – the tax collector, traitor, and thief – became Matthew, one of the twelve disciples. Jesus invited him despite his status in society. He says to each of us "Follow me" as well. If only we will accept the invitation.

*Have you accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him? If not, what do you feel is holding you back? If so, in what ways do you make choices that may not fully embrace His invitation? Think back on your ending prayer time with God yesterday. For either of those questions, is it your status, your choices, or your sin? Take a moment to recognize that Jesus invites you just as you are. You don't have to "clean up your act" before you take steps to follow Him.*

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Our passage tells us many tax collectors and sinners were in attendance at the dinner. In fact, it continues to expand that statement to say "many" followed Jesus. The party was large enough to draw the attention of the Pharisees. Jesus was not afraid to be seen with the lowly – the tax collectors and the sinners. Instead, He enjoyed a meal with them – a sign of friendship. He grew His relationship with those in attendance. No one was unwelcome, and His mercy drew each in.

*Think of a close friend you've had in life. How did you grow that friendship? What things could you share with that person that you shared with no one else? Now think of that friendship in correlation to your relationship with Jesus. How do you grow your friendship with Jesus? Are you sharing your sin and shame with Him and letting His mercy wash over you? Jesus is our perfect, everlasting friend.*

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Jesus compares Himself to a doctor healing the sick. But He makes a profound statement that it is the sick who need a doctor, not the healthy. Implied in this statement is the fact that the sick **know** they are sick; thus, they **seek** out the doctor. Every follower of Christ must first come to a point where they **know** the sin in their life, and, as a result, they **seek** out the love and mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ. However, sometimes along the journey, it may become easy to normalize or underplay sin that creeps in. We can so quickly forget our need for continual relationship with our perfect doctor.

*Do you recognize the sin in your life? Or do you instead act as if maybe it's just "normal" and "ok"? Take time today to acknowledge your sin to your Heavenly Father. Ask Him to help you in recognizing and combating your sin. Know your sin and seek the perfect doctor. Ask Him for forgiveness. Let His mercy draw you near.*

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Jesus himself said He came to call the sinners. He came to call us. But, as the perfect doctor, He heals us of those sins by transforming us into new creation. He takes that sin and shame and throws it out the door. Let Him work His healing power in your life, whether you've been sitting at His table for just a day or for decades. Let His mercy wash over you anew. And, beloved, recognize you're in perfect company with the motley crew of us misfits around you.

*End today praying to your Heavenly Father, thanking Him for His healing power in your life. Thank Him for your imperfections. Thank Him for the motley crew of misfits in your life that help you walk this journey. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your journey as a disciple of Christ.*

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