

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Words, Works + Ways - Part 2

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Introduction

Jesus was not afraid to associate himself with and eat with those on the edges of society. Among the marginalised – tax collectors, lepers, prostitutes and others – Jesus found people with hearts that were open and willing to hear the good news of the Gospel.

Bible Passage

Mark 2:13-17

Discussion

1. Jesus broke down many cultural barriers in his time. What were some of the ways that he did this?
2. Why might Jesus have taken this approach to his ministry? Why might the Pharisees have rejected his approach?
3. What are some examples where Jesus defied community expectations to show his love to others?
4. Read Mark 2:15. Many whom were attracted to Jesus were seen as sinners by the community of the day. What was it about Jesus that attracted sinners? Might such people be attracted or repelled by his followers today? Why might this be the case?
5. Jesus was willing to invest time with those rejected by others. What can we learn from this?
6. There is something powerful about sitting down to eat a meal with others. Why is this? How can we use this insight to help us share with others?

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7. Read 2:17. How might we need to hear these words of Jesus today?
8. What might we need to change in order for others to see Jesus in us?

Respond

There is a risk that once we have been a follower of Jesus for a period of time, many of our friends and associates tend to be from within the church. We have to be intentional about utilising our connections (at work, at the gym, in social clubs, in our wider families, through parenting connections, etc.) to stay connected with those who do not yet know Jesus. Who is one person who is already in your life that you can be more intentional about sharing with and perhaps inviting for a meal? Make a commitment to follow through this week.

Reading Plan:

Week 2 – Read and reread Mark 2