

Study Guide

Mark 2:13-3:6

Jesus calls a **hated tax collector** to follow him! Are you kidding me? These folks were regarded as the scum of the earth. Imagine someone you despise being called to follow Jesus. How would that make you feel? This next passage pushes our buttons. We see a little more of the image of God in the face of Jesus. This weekend we will take a closer look under the veneer of religious pride and find a contrast between **love-based** and **law-based** Christianity. Fascinating. Revealing.

1. Share some of your initial thoughts from the message.
2. Read Mark 2:13-17. Can you describe the scene? Discuss verse 17. What was Jesus saying here? What does love-based Christianity look like?
3. At this point Mark turns to three examples of law-based religion. Read each example and discuss the concepts we learn. Law-based Christianity is:
 - a. ...ineffective- overlooks context (2:18-22)
 - b. ... burdensome- demoralizes us (2:23-27)
 - c. ... heartless- loses sight of love (3:1-6)
4. Discuss the following passage: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* Matt. 5:17
How is personal adherence to God's laws a good thing for us? How does Jesus fulfill the laws?

Application

Take some time to pray for people who have hurt or offended you. Ask God to fill your heart with His love for others.

Message Slides

Mark 2:13-3:6

I. Jesus Loves Sinners (2:13-17)

¹³He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

¹⁶And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷And when Jesus heard it, 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."

1 Cor. 1:26-29

²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many **wise according to the flesh**, not many **mighty**, not many **noble**; ²⁷but God has chosen the **foolish** things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the **weak** things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the **base** things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹**so that no man may boast before God.**

II. Law-based Christianity Makes us Ineffective, Burdened and Heartless (2:18-3:6)

A. Ineffective- Overlooks Context (2:18-22)

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. ²¹No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

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1. Ineffective witness.
2. Ineffective against sin.

B. Burdened- Demoralizes us (2:23-28)

²³One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he

was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

C. Heartless- Loses Sight of Love (3:1-6)

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand.² And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.