Come As You Are

Jesse LaRue · Mark 2:13–17

INTRODUCTION

- Mark is certainly the action-packed gospel, the shortest of the four gospels.
- It moves swiftly from one event to the next. He's constantly using this word immediately.
- The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Essentially, that is who he was, and this is the story to prove it.

1 Jesus Came Not to Call the Righteous, but Sinners

Mark 2:13

- Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.
- He didn't call Pharisees and scribes and rabbis. He called fishermen and a tax collector.
- These were not extraordinary men, they were ordinary men.
- Jesus is trying to teach them about true religion, about God's love, about the original intent of the law, which was mercy and not sacrifice.

2 Jesus Calls Levi the Tax Collector

Mark 2:14

- Here is someone who would have been just universally despised.
- He would have been an outcast, the lowest of the low.
- He's showing us that no matter where we're from, all walks of life, we can come together and work in God's kingdom.

3 Reclining at Table With Tax Collectors and Sinners

Mark 2:14–15

- Levi does not hesitate to leave all and follow Jesus when Jesus calls him with two simple words. Follow me.
- To recline at table indicates personal acceptance and cordiality. This is more than just inviting somebody over for a meal. This is accepting someone into your home.
- They were the kind of people whom today we still look down on.
- He wanted everyone to hear his message. He wanted everyone to see what it was that God's love was really all about.

4 Why Is He Eating With Them?

Mark 2:16; Leviticus 10:10; Luke 5:32

- When they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, simply, why is he doing that?
- Jesus will bring sinners to repentance and forgiveness rather than being defiled by association with the sinners.
- That's not the attitude that Christ calls us to have. Nor is the example that he clearly showed.
- Are we arrogant? Are we just accepting sinfulness or are we compassionate and trying to correct it lovingly?

5 A Third Path: Personal Purity and the Fellowship of Mercy

Mark 2:17

- The problem the Pharisees had was that they saw only two paths.
- There's a path of personal purity and the fellowship of mercy.
- On account of their arrogance and their lack of mercy, the Pharisees were in fact the sick and the sinner.
- What is our attitude towards the sick? And it's a simple message. Who are we calling?

6 Come As You Are, and I Can Make You Clean

- If the supposition of that church is come as you are, and you don't ever need to change anything, that would certainly be wrong.
- Come as you are is really the message of Jesus here in Mark chapter 2, isn't it? Come as you are, and I can make you clean.
- Don't we need to adopt the attitude of come as you are and we will teach you the gospel?
- The gospel's message is a message for all.

THE CHALLENGE

Then won't you come today? Come as you are.

MY NOTES