

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

- What stood out for you?

Read Mark 2

Jesus' whole mission is one of salvation and redemption; of restoring people to wholeness.

- How is he to help sinners change, unless he is in direct contact with them?

By being with sinners, Jesus is not approving or turning a blind eye to their behaviour.

He says the "sick" are in need of healing.

This can only be done by reaching out to them.

- Where can I reach out and bring healing and restoration to the people I am in direct contact with in my life?

I wonder how Jesus said the words, "*Follow me.*" Like an order, an invitation, a whisper, or a definite challenge?

However said, it provoked a response.

- Allow Jesus to address you in your prayer. How do you hear his call to follow him: as a gentle invitation, an urgent word? No matter how it is said, it is always spoken into the space of each person's interior freedom and deepest generosity.
- Who does Levi invite to the feast? Why do you think he invited them?
- Why are so many "sinners" following Jesus?
- Why are the Scribes of the Pharisees offended by Jesus' presence at the feast?
- Can a person be righteous apart from Jesus?
- Can a person be too sinful for God to forgive?
- Why did Jesus spend so much time with sinners?
- Do some people today have the same problem as the scribes did in Jesus' day?
- Will people who do not believe that they are sinners turn to Jesus for salvation from the penalty of their sins? Why or why not?
- How can we help them to understand the fullness of the gospel?

REFLECTING ON & LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Looking over this chapter of Mark, how does Jesus model for us different ways of announcing the kingdom of God?
- How has this chapter expanded your view of what God can do and is doing, to teach, heal and defeat the forces of evil?
- Review the post [Into The Text MARK 2](https://occweb.org/into-the-text/mark-2) on occweb.org/
There are a couple of things to think through here
 - calling
 - who does the calling?
 - who is called?
 - where does the calling take place?
 - hospitality
 - who hosts the party?
 - who is invited to the party?
 - who does Jesus identify with?

- Listen again to the song "*We Seek Your Kingdom*"

This song affirms that no sphere of life is exempt from Christ's redemptive work. It's a powerful reminder that God is interested and active in all areas of society, spurring us to seek transformation wherever we are – in our workplaces, homes, communities, and beyond.

Pray the Lord's | Disciples | Kingdom prayer

- Praying big 'macro' prayers, that God's kingdom would be increasingly evident in our society and institutions, our nation and our world.
- Pray 'micro' prayers for one another, that you would know his presence with you as you seek God's kingdom on your frontline this week.