

The Call of Christ
Mark 2:13-17



He Touched Me - Gaither Vocal Band

Shackled by a heavy burden,
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
And now I am no longer the same.

He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.

Why did Jesus come and pitch his tent in our world?

- He came to touch lives, people
 - Broken lives physically, mentally, spiritually
 - Yes, He came to provide a satisfactory payment for our sin debt, but that was touching lives as well
- **1 John 3:8b NIV** - The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
 - The devil's work is to separate, steal, kill, destroy

How does Jesus do this?

- **Luke 19:10 NIV** - “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (hurting, lonely, failures, weak, stumblers).”
- Who are the lost?
 - Greek – those perishing, being destroyed, the excluded

We will see an example of this in Jesus' interaction with a man totally excluded from Jewish life named Levi or Matthew

- He was a Roman tax collector synonymous with sinner or outcast
- He was wealthy from extortion, hated above all others
- Rejected by his people, rejected by his faith, rejected by his God (He felt and was told)

We will see an example of this in Jesus' interaction with a man totally excluded from Jewish life named Levi or Matthew

- Politically viewed as a traitor
- Religious leaders determined they were unsavable, untrustworthy, worthy of only death

Luke 18:9-11 NIV 9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.’”

Jesus demonstrated last week he was the Lord of forgiveness

- This week he will demonstrate how far his forgiveness will go
- The Call Of Christ, **Mark 2:13-17**

Here was a man caught in the circumstances of his past decisions

- He chose wealth over everything else Jewish life offered
- Even over his relationship with God
- The looks of disgust and rejection on every face he sees

Here was a man caught in the circumstances of his past decisions

- In debt to the Roman government, no fellowship except with other sinners, large house but empty rooms
- As he is counting his money he looks up and here comes this miracle teacher named Jesus
- Is he going to reject me too?

Here was a man caught in the circumstances of his past decisions

- Is he going to draw attention to me and declare my worthlessness like all the others?
- I wish he would just go away and leave me alone.
- Aren't you glad Jesus didn't and doesn't do this?

Jesus saw something in Levi that the world failed to see, nor did Levi see it in himself

- The world saw someone with absolutely no value that not even God could love
- He was not worthy to step into the temple, synagogue, Jewish society
- Sinner without hope

Jesus saw something in Levi that the world failed to see

- This may be how you see yourself this morning
 - Carrying around a load of guilt, shame and regret
- This may be how others have seen you in the past
- You might have heard the words hopeless growing up and now you see yourself and everything else through those lenses

Jesus saw something in Levi that the world failed to see

- You may see judgmental eyes throwing religious daggers at you
- Life may have dealt you some hard blows
- You may be battling thoughts like this today
- There is hope

Jesus saw something in Levi that the world failed to see

- But what did Jesus see?
 - A lost and hurting son of Abraham
 - A son of promise feeding on hog slop like the prodigal son but still a son of Abraham
 - Someone stuck in the mire of religious expectation

Jesus saw something in Levi that the world failed to see

- Someone the Heavenly Father loved immensely
- Jesus didn't care how he got there
- He just desired to reintroduce him to his loving heavenly Father who was seeking him

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

- What was Levi expecting?
 - Condemnation, Rejection, Harshness
 - What do you expect from Jesus this morning?
- But what did he receive?
 - Love, acceptance and way back

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

- Three little words – Come follow me
- Notice Jesus met Levi right where he was at, in the middle of his transactions, hurts, walls built up

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Come – Come out, Come from behind, Move toward me

- There's a decision to be made Levi and it will cost you everything
- The benefit is a right relationship with God

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Come – Come out, Come from behind, Move toward me

- Jesus always calls us out of our sin
- People today want to peace of salvation without the shedding of sin and it doesn't work that way
- Levi was called from a place of sin and rejection into a place of forgiveness and reconciliation

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Follow – Walk in the same direction as me, Fellowship closely with me, Become intimate with me

- Jesus is talking about a fellowship of faith

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Matthew 11:28-30 NLT 28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Me – Not a religious person, set of rules and regulations, religion but no one other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself

- **John 6:37b NIV** whoever comes to me I will never drive away. - Never reject, cast out, turn away

Jesus' three little words completely changed the direction of Levi's life

Me – Not a religious person, set of rules and regulations, religion but no one other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself

- Jesus is still offering this today to everyone who will
Come out and follow him
 - Following him through His word, fellowship of Holy Spirit, worship in his church

Levi's life was totally changed when he allowed Jesus close

- Levi left everything of the old life behind
 - The shame, guilt, contempt, hatred, rejection, isolation, failure
 - Everything except his relationships
- He was so excited about what he had discovered he wanted all of his friends to know this Jesus as well

Levi's life was totally changed when he allowed Jesus close

- He gave a huge party and invited other sinners, that's all he knew
- He didn't wonder if Jesus would reject them, look down upon them, not want to associate with them
- He wasn't ashamed of Jesus or the Gospel that Jesus taught

Levi's life was totally changed when he allowed Jesus close

- I wonder what the other disciples thought about eating in a ceremonially unclean home with “sinners” all around and religious skeptics judging them
 - Did they go through their religious rituals of washing before eating?
 - Were they ashamed for being there?

Levi's life was totally changed when he allowed Jesus close

- Jesus didn't approve of their lifestyle, their sinfulness but for them to be able to hear about the Kingdom of God He needed to rub shoulders with them
- For them to come and follow he had to be there to be seen and heard

Ending

As you can expect not everyone there was pleased
vs. 16 NLT But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?”

Ending

Who goes to the doctor when they are healthy or think they are healthy?

- It is only those who know they are sick and need a doctor go see them to be made healthy
- **vs. 17b NLT** “I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Ending

There is the condition for salvation, you must know you need a Savior before you will earnestly come out and follow Jesus

- It's not hanging around the edges hoping you are saved
- It not saying the right words, not even believing the right truths

Ending

- It's knowing you need a Savior and Jesus has paid the penalty of your sin debt
- Accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, trusting his death and resurrection for the payment of your sin debt
- Not a one and done event but a lifestyle/lifetime of following Jesus out of darkness into the glorious light of your Heavenly Father

Ending

What will you find?

- Just life abundant and full of glory as you learn of your wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ
- Have you really done this today?

The Call of Christ
Mark 2:13-17

