

# Good News From Mark

Do you need a doctor?

Mark 2:13-17

## Intro

You don't make an appointment with a doctor unless you need to. You don't take your car to a mechanic just because you don't have anything else to do.

## Setting

Jesus is back in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

He has already rattled "the peanut gallery" by forgiving the sins of a paralyzed man and then demonstrated that he had the authority to do so by restoring his health.

## Overview

1. Down at the lake (2:13-14)
2. Eating with sinners (2:15)
3. Dealing with the fallout (2:16-17)

### 1. Down at the lake (2:13-14)

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake – the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd came to him and he began to teach them.

Levi was down at the lake as well – collecting taxes from anyone entering Herod Antipas' territory.

Jesus told Levi to follow him.

Levi got and followed Jesus.

### 2. Eating with Sinners

Jesus was gaining the reputation of a well-respected lay Rabbi  
- taught with authority

- invited to speak in synagogues

Now he blew that all to pieces by doing something that no rabbi would ever do – have dinner with "tax collectors and sinners."

A meal with a person communicated acceptance and friendship. Jesus in one sense was acting out a parable – saying to everyone “these are the ones that I came to call to my kingdom.”

### 3. Handling the flack (2:16-17)

The Pharisees couldn't believe what Jesus was doing.

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

The Pharisees were just as sick as the tax collectors – they just weren't going to admit it.

They would not answer Jesus' call to repent and believe because they didn't think of themselves as sinners.

### Summary & Application

1. Do you need Jesus as your doctor?

The calling of Levi encourages us with the good news that no one is too far from God to be welcomed into his family.

The only thing that may prevent that from happening is your own view of your condition before God.

2. Hospitality is a great way to connect with people.

3. There are two different ways of being “righteous.”

A) presenting yourself that way through your own good works or religious activity

B) being granted the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ by confessing your sins and believing on Him as Saviour and Lord.

4. Jesus action challenges us to step into the world of others and not wait for them to come into ours.