



Sermon Main Idea:

Jesus calls people from disparate places to come together to accomplish His mission. What if we became a people who, instead of pushing away people who are different, invite them in?

Introduction:

1. In what ways have you seen people excluded in our society because they do things differently?
2. Why do you think that the tendency is to push people away when they believe/think/act/look differently?

SORP:

Scripture | read Mark 2:13-22

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. What stands out to you about the interaction between Jesus and Levi?
2. Why might the Pharisees have been so concerned about who Jesus was dining with? What does this speak about fundamental differences in the mission of the Pharisees from that of Jesus?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (verse 16)
4. How might Jesus’s response to the question of why His followers were not fasting (verses 19-20) have come across to those listening?
5. What was Jesus trying to communicate with His imagery of the wine and wineskins? (verses 21-22)

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. In calling Levi, Jesus makes it clear that He is not concerned about people being polluted; He’s concerned about bringing people in. How do you see the church missing the mark on this mission?
2. What are some categories of sinners in our culture today that tend to be treated/thought of in a similar way that tax collectors were at the time of this writing?
3. Take a moment and think about what it would look like if we could create a space where ALL were welcome around the table, as Jesus did. How would that change the way we operate? What impact would it have on our community/world?
4. What part of the messiness of community with people of differing beliefs/behaviors causes hesitation/anxiety about this idea?
5. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response