Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional First Congregational Church of Woodstock Pastor Doug Warren March 17, 2024

Mark's Gospel—Jesus' True Identity Reveals the Magnitude of His Sacrifice

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Mark 2:13-17

The God Who Befriends Sinners

Jesus Is the God Who Transforms Sinners into Saints.

1. Jesus Teaches the Truth about Sin (13).

2. Jesus Actually Loves Dreadful People (14-15).

3. Jesus Eviscerates the Self-Righteous (16-17).

Conclusion: In recording Christ's call of Levi as a disciple, Mark shows us the radical love of God for sinners. Jesus demonstrates His faithful love for the faithless, like a traitorous tax collector, like us. He also demonstrates His loathing for self-righteous hypocrites who study His Word but twist it to demean others rather than to love them. Does Christ's scandalous mercy take your breath away or puff up your sense of superiority? Let us love like Jesus!

Hosea 11:1-3, 8

When Israel was a child, *I loved him*, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;

I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; *my compassion grows warm and tender*.

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still helpless, at *the* right time *Christ died for the ungodly*. For one will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*.

First John 4:7-11

Beloved, *let us love one another*, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another*.

John 13:21-27

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was *reclining at table at Jesus' side*, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom *I will give this morsel of bread* when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, *he gave it to Judas*, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

First Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And *such were some of you*. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.