

## The Gospel of Mark - Sin & Sinners

- Mark 2:1-17 -

Mark 2:1-12 – Sin - James 2 - True faith is accompanied by actions. The irony is that the man came for physical healing and Jesus pronounced spiritual cleansing—forgiveness.

**Blasphemy:** Intentionally and maliciously crediting Satan with the work of the Holy Spirit.  
(Jesus has authority to punish blasphemy.)

Satan is his own tool to defeat/destroy Christians  
The world is the devil's tool outside of us  
The flesh is the devils's tool inside of us

Mark's gospel speaks of three encounters between Jesus and Satan's wicked influence. Jesus has authority over the demons because he is holy - Mark 1:21-34.

**Conclusion & Application:** Holiness exposes evil and it has the power to defeat it.

Faith confronts obstacles, and forgiveness removes guilt.

Faith is not a private wager—it's a public risk. (Matthew 10:32-33)

Mark 1:21-2:12 - The kingdom of God burst on the scenes and is a picture of what will take place on a cosmic scale when Jesus returns. One day Jesus will make all things right.

Mark 2:13-17 - Sinners - Levi

**Tax Collectors** - Employed local Jews who collected taxes or tolls from fellow Jews and were hated for it. "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

**Conclusion:** Levi's call comes from the Greek word that means "named, invited, summoned, designated". Jesus did not come to name and designate the righteous, he came to call, name and designate sinners to come and follow Jesus.

The way of the cross is never easy but Jesus calls Levi to follow him in the way of the cross. When Jesus calls he is calling us to the "way of the cross".

In the opening story of the paralytic being healed (2:1-12) and in the second story of Jesus calling Levi (2:13-17) we have the common Greek words translated SIN. Love sinners and ask God for eyes that can see beyond sin. God will deal with the sin, but he would like his disciples to be the physical love of God for sinners.