

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 2 Jesus Shows He Is True God

Law/Gospel

If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me. **Jesus is the friend of sinners, who says to me, "Fear not, I am faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness."**

Bible Words

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1:15

Fun Facts

Like many people in the Bible, Matthew has two different names. The Gospels of Mark and Luke call him Levi in the accounts of Jesus calling him (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27), but their lists of the twelve apostles call him Matthew.

Sing

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
(LSB 770:1)

Jesus Calls Matthew

Mark 2:13–17

The Jewish people hated the Romans who occupied their sacred land. They choked at paying taxes for Roman roads and building projects. And they hated traitorous Jewish tax collectors who worked for Rome.

Tax collectors often cheated or overcharged people. The Jews called them sinners, meaning they were ceremonially unclean and not allowed in the synagogues or temple. Many became very wealthy social outcasts.

Levi worked at a tax collector booth at Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee. He probably collected a toll on goods on the Via Maris, a major road running from Damascus in the north to the Egyptian coast in the south. Traders paid tolls here upon entering the territory of Herod Antipas.

Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee, was Jesus' home during this part of His ministry. He taught by the sea, and large crowds followed Him.

One day Jesus passed by Levi's tax booth and told him, "Follow Me." Levi got up and went. He threw a party at his home for Jesus and His many followers plus Levi's own friends, tax collectors and sinners.

The party drew the scorn of scribes associated with the Pharisees who questioned Jesus' actions. How could this rabbi share a meal with sinners? (You can almost hear them spit the words.)

Pharisees considered those who didn't follow their strict purity rules to be sinners. Eating with a Gentile or sinner was especially wrong because sharing a meal indicated an intimate friendship.

Jesus rejected their view. Comforting sinners then and today, Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

People who think they are good enough don't see the need for a Savior. People who realize they sin know they need help. That's why Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sin and rose to give us new life. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for befriending sinners. Thank You for giving us forgiveness and life through Your Word and Sacraments. In Your name we pray. Amen.

cph.org/SundaySchool

Permission to copy for the New Testament 2 quarter. Scripture: ESV®.
LSB © 2006. Copyright © 2016 Concordia Publishing House.

