



Daily Reflections

January 19, 2019

Scripture

Mark 2: 13-17

Jesus went out along the sea.

All the crowd came to him and he taught them.

As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post.

Jesus said to him, "Follow me."

And he got up and followed Jesus.

While he was at table in his house,

many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him.

Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples,

"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard this and said to them,

"Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.

I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Our Scripture Reflection

Levi's response to Jesus' call to him is remarkable given his circumstances. Tax collectors were wealthy but despised people. Levi made his money collecting tolls, a portion of which went to fund the Roman army which occupied the Jewish nation. He was looked upon by his Jewish neighbors as

a traitor, a collaborator with the oppressor. When Levi received Jesus' call and offer for a new life he could not resist. The call of Levi teaches us that nothing we get ourselves into, especially those things that cause us pain or loneliness can hold us captive forever. Jesus can and will set us free and give us new life if only we come to Him.

Food for your Journey

Viktor Frankl has written that peace means freedom in the face of three things: our instincts or "lower nature," our inherited traits or disposition and our surroundings Few of us, Frankl goes on, make important life choices with any degree of decisiveness. Backtracking here and compromising there, we often lack the backbone to stand by our own decisions. Because of this, we remain in a continual state of angst. At times we hold a planless, day-to-day attitude toward whatever comes our way. At others we are fatalistic, defeatist. One day we exhibit spinelessness and have no clearly defined opinion at all; the next we cling so strongly and stubbornly to an idea we become fanatical. Ultimately, Frankl says, all these symptoms can be traced back to our fear of responsibility, and the indecision which is its fruit.

--Johann Arnold, Seeking Peace

(Pennsylvania: The Plough Publishing

House, 1998), 140.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You offered Levi and You offer me a new life in You. Help me, Lord, to turn my life completely over to Your care. May I experience the joy that comes from loving You above all things. Amen