



Daily Reflections

January 16, 2021

Scripture

Mark 2:13-17

And he went forth again to the sea side; and all the multitude came to him, and he taught them. And when he was passing by, he saw Levi the son of Alpheus sitting at the receipt of custom; and he saith to him: Follow me. And rising up, he followed him.

And it came to pass, that as he sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat down together with Jesus and his disciples. For they were many, who also followed him.

And the scribes and the Pharisees, seeing that he ate with publicans and sinners, said to his disciples: Why doth your master eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

Jesus hearing this, saith to them: They that are well have no need of a physician, but they that are sick. For I came not to call the just, but sinners.

Our Scripture Reflection

The scribes and Pharisees followed the part of the Law to the "T" which held that one was not to associate with outcasts and sinners, well...except for the instance in today's Gospel. What are they doing in the same air space as all those sinners with whom Jesus is breaking bread?? He is there because He loves them but they are there for the purpose of gossiping about Jesus and criticizing Him. How hard-hearted of them. Little did they know that they needed Jesus as much as those sinners did!

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 came to seek out save those who were lost. Matthew knew that he was a sinner and he left a lucrative profession in order to turn his life over to You completely. Help me, Lord, to surrender my life to You completely as well; may I become an active witness to your Gospel. Amen