



Message Discussion Guide Week of February 25, 2024

Message: Power Surge, Part 5: Sinners Wanted

Key Scriptures: [Mark 2:13-17](#)

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Message Highlights:

Who is Levi? Levi is a tax collector and son of Alphaeus who was from Capernaum. He was among the most despised people of Israel. He was a traitor to his community because he not only collected taxes for Rome but collected more to line his pockets. Levi was also a disappointment to his parents. They probably had great expectations for him as a child and he ended up one of the most hated men in Capernaum.

Then comes Jesus. All he says is "Follow Me". This command is a present tense command. It literally means "Be following me". It is a call for Levi to leave his old life behind and begin a new life following Jesus. Jesus saw something in Levi, a potential that no one else saw in him. Jesus sees through the disappointment and into the person that Levi and in turn we are meant to be. **When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are taking this command as our own. When we leave the old behind and take on our new identity in Christ.**

What was the purpose of going to Levi's house? Well, Levi invited him to this party that he was throwing as a farewell to his old life and an opportunity to introduce his friends, the "sinners" to Jesus. You see when Levi began following Jesus his life was changed, and he wanted to share that with his friends. I believe God had been working on Levi's heart before Jesus passes by that day. He was from Capernaum, so he had probably heard Jesus' preaching and maybe even saw one of the miracles that Jesus had performed. He heard and saw with his own eyes the power surge of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus sitting and eating with "sinners" makes total sense. After all he was sent to remove the sin from the world.

Two- Key take-a-ways:

- 1) No One is Beyond Hope
- 2) Jesus sees the hidden potential in the lives of the lost.

Read Matthew 9:9-13 to see Levi become Matthew.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have you ever felt like a “disappointment”?
 - a. Who did you disappoint? How did that make you feel?
- 2) Would you have gone to Levi’s house to eat with the tax collectors and “sinners”?
 - a. Who are the “sinners” that you dine with?
- 3) Tell us of a time that you dined with someone who you normally would not dine with.
 - a. Was it part of a mission experience or was it something that you chose to do without prodding.
- 4) Look at the highlighted passage and read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - a. Do you feel as if you have a new identity in Christ?
- 5) From the Message Paraphrase.

“Later Jesus and his disciples were at home having supper with a collection of disreputable guests. Unlikely as it seems, more than a few of them had become followers. The religion scholars and Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company and lit into his disciples: “What kind of example is this, acting cozy with the riffraff?” Jesus overhearing, shot back, “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I’m here inviting the sin-sick, not the spiritually fit.”

 - a. Do you feel sin-sick?
 - b. Where do you hear Jesus calling you? Have you heard Jesus calling you?