

LW – Power of our Personal Story & the Power of Jesus/God on earth and power to forgive sins/heal men

### **V13-14**

1. By the sea again - & Teaching again!

2. Levi – Mark/Luke use Levi here; Matthew uses Matthew; Only other time in list of 12 – as “Matthew”

3. Jesus says Follow Me – Says to Phillip (Jn 1:43); To Peter/Andrew (Mk 1:17), James/John; Matthew (Here); To Unnamed Disciple in Matthew 8:22<sup>22</sup>But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”; To Rich Young Ruler, Matthew 19:21<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

1. What must the others thought – A tax collector?!?!? This guy will call anyone!!! Exactly, Whoever you are!

2. Multitude hears Jesus – Disciples Follow Jesus -

- Disciples/called by Jesus, follow Jesus, put their faith in Jesus, will experience Jesus, empowered by Jesus,

### **V15-17**

1. Jesus sitting/eating with “tax collectors” & “sinners” (& his disciples – thinking “we shouldn’t be here!)

2. Scribes/Pharisees – How is it that he sits/eats/drinks with tax collectors and sinners????

3. Jesus tells them why!

- Those well, have not need of a physician, those who are sick

- Didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance!

\* What about us? Are we to be spending time with tax collectors & sinners? Some say yes, some say no?

\* I believe is totally dependent on our motives!

John 8:12<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

\* But here Jesus tells us the right motive – They’re sick w/sin, we can share/cure, “call sinners to repentance”

### **V18-22**

\* Disciples of John & Pharisees fasting – Ask a fair question – How come we fast, but you guys aren’t?

1. Can the friends/Bridegroom fast while he is w/them. 2.) As long as he is with them they cannot fast

3. But when he is taken away – they WILL fast

Who is the Bridegroom? Jesus - Parable/Ten Virgins Matt 25:1-13; Eph 5:25-32; Rev 21:2, 9; Rev 22:17

Who is the friend of the Bridegroom? – Whoever is a friend of Jesus!

What does Jesus say they will do when He is taken away from them? – Fast

What is fasting? To abstain from food and/or drink

Why fast? Many reasons to fast, but for our sake today lets go to Isa 58:6-9

Sure Jesus really wants us to fast?

**Matthew 6:16-18**<sup>16</sup>“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.<sup>17</sup>But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,<sup>18</sup>so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

1. Do we fast? Depend on if we knew we should. If we are friends/disciples of Jesus. If we believed in the reason. If we knew how/when...or why!

\* Fasting is for the purpose of STARVING the FLESH to FEED the SPIRIT.

\* Not always food!!! Give a great example? Sleeping – instead of praying/reading; Watching TV – instead of reading/praying with the kids at bed time. Staying home/watching TV – rather than going to church Wed night.

\* Jesus said When HE was taken away His Friends will FAST

\* Jesus made an assumption when talking to his Disciples/Friends – When you fast, when you fast

\* Jesus expected us to keep our flesh in check, through denying our flesh in order to feed the Spirit

**Galatians 5:17**<sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

## V21-22

- \* Jesus was doing a new work – needed new workers.
- \* Couldn't put this new wine (new covenant) in the old wine (old covenant)
- \* Knew they couldn't/wouldn't handle it, because they were so set in their ways
  
- \* That is how the Lord works – when man's religion becomes hard and inflexible, rigid
- \* He makes a new wineskin and pours new wine in it & does a new work!!!
- \* Can the Lord enable a wineskin to continue to remain flexible, pliable – Absolutely
- \* But does man allow him to – Most often not
- \* We need to – As individuals, as families, and as a church – Stay flexible, pliable, to receive new wine!

## V23-28

1. Pharisees ask why Jesus' disciples breaking the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Exodus 20:8-10<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

2. Jesus tells them why

- a. With an example of King David – Breaking the commandment that only priests should eat the showbread
- b. Explains – Sabbath/Made/Man/Not Man/Sabbath – Man/more important to the Lord than the commandments
- c. Therefore – Son/Man is Lord over Sabbath – Them following ME is more important – ACTUALLY the PURPOSE OF THE LAW!

Galatians 3:24<sup>24</sup>Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 10:4<sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Mark 12:30-31<sup>30</sup>And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. <sup>31</sup>And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”