



Part 6 of our Series Rhythms

Key Text: Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Jesus was an intentional leader who invites people into a relationship with Him and then challenges others to do the same.

¹³ Then Jesus **went out** to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. ¹⁴ As he walked along, **he saw** Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "**Follow me and be my disciple,**" Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ Later, **Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.** (There were many people of this kind among Jesus' followers.) ¹⁶ But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees **saw** him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard this, he told them, "**Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.** I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners. Mark 2:13-17

Tax collectors were expected to take a commission on the taxes they collected, but most of them overcharged and kept the profits. Thus, tax collectors were hated by most Jews because of their reputation for cheating and because of their support of Rome. A Jew who accepted such an office was **excommunicated** from the synagogue and shamed his family and friends. Thus a Jewish tax collector was looked down upon for valuing money over reputation, respectability, purity before God, and concern for his own people, who had to pay extremely high taxes to the imperial power.¹

- Jesus Went Out
- Jesus Saw
- Jesus Challenges

The word (Follow Me) is in the present tense, signifying the commencement and continuation of that action. Jesus called Levi to follow—that is, to walk the same road. Levi recognized that Jesus wasn't inviting him; Jesus was calling him. So Levi got up and followed.²

- Jesus Calls

Jesus knew to fulfill his mission; he needed to be with those he knew he needed to rescue. Jesus came to set captives free. I am so thankful we are on his visitation list.

Conversation Between Pastor Matt and Chris Garner

Last week we learned more about God's command to love our neighbor. I like that passage because Jesus reframed the question, "Who is my neighbor?" to be "How can I be a good neighbor?"

Pastor Matt, I have been inspired by your willingness to be used by God. Can you share with us about some recent experiences?

Pastor Matt: Why is it we simply are not seeing people or needs? Or if we do, not responding? Fear is a major factor in whether we take a risk or not. For me, I have had to force myself to step out and trust Jesus. Can you share a little bit about your experience with this struggle?

Pastor Matt: Time is another struggle many of us face. We are all busy people, and often it is a struggle to make time for our neighbors. How would you respond to this?

Pastor Matt: Practically, what can we do as a congregation to be better neighbors?

One Last Thought: Chris, you will be teaching a 4-week class on this very issue. Can you share a little bit about that?

¹ Barton, B. B. (1994). *Mark* (pp. 55–56). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Barton, B. B. (1994). *Mark* (p. 56). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

8 WAYS TO EASILY BE MISSIONAL [Jonathan Dodson](#) (Verge Network)

We can be missional in everyday ways without overloading our schedules. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Eat with Non-Christians.

We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and focus on the conversation. When you go out for a meal, invite others, or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at the table with strangers and strike up a conversation. Cookout and invite Christians and non-Christians. Flee the Christian subculture.

2. Walk, Don't Drive.

If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking around your neighborhood, apartment complex, or campus. Instead of driving to the mailbox, convenience store, or apartment office, walk to get mail, groceries, and stuff. Be deliberate in your walk. Say hello to people you don't know.

3. Be a Regular.

Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go to the same places at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular.

4. Hobby with Non-Christians.

Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try City League sports. Local rowing and cycling teams. Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Teach sewing lessons, piano lessons, violin, guitar, knitting, tennis lessons. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. Be yourself.

5. Talk to Your Co-workers.

How hard is that? Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or task force after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form mom groups in your neighborhood and don't make them exclusively Christian—schedule play dates with the neighbors' kids. Work on mission.

6. Volunteer with Non-Profits.

Find a non-profit in your part of the city and take Saturday a month to serve your city. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group. Spend time with your church serving your city once a month. You can do it!

7. Participate in City Events.

Instead of playing X-Box, watching TV, or surfing the net, participate in city events. Go to fundraisers, festivals, clean-ups, summer shows, and concerts. Strike up a conversation. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray, love, participate in the city.

8. Serve your Neighbors.

Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local Police and Fire Stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve!

Don't make the mistake of making "missional" another thing to add to your schedule. Instead, make your existing schedule missional.