

BYOJ - "Would He or Wouldn't He"

April 22-23, 2017

Community:

1. What is your usual response when a coffee shop or restaurant gets your order wrong?
2. Has the "have it your way" aspect of society today effected your outlook on faith and Jesus?

Core:

1. **Read Mark 2:13-15.** Is there anything about this brief passage that brings up questions for you? Why do you think Matthew (Levi) was so quick to drop everything to follow Jesus?
2. Jim explained that Jewish tax collectors (collecting for the Roman Empire) were reviled by other Jews. He also said the word "sinner" (in Bible times) referred to anyone who had messed up sexually. Who do you think are seen as the *reviled* and the *outcasts* today?
3. In Jewish culture (during Jesus' day) an invitation to eat in someone's home meant: "Let's be friends/family." What do you think it said to the people surrounding Jesus that He accepted Matthew's invitation to dinner—with other tax collectors and sinners?
4. Given Jesus' love and care for the "sinners" of the world, how should that effect our attitude and treatment towards the "sinners" of our world? Who would you place in the category of "sinners" today?
5. **Read Mark 2:16-17.** The Pharisees (the religious police) really had a problem with Jesus eating and drinking with "sinners." Have you experienced churches and religious people of today doing the same thing? Share you experience.
6. **Read Luke 19:1-10.** Jesus makes it clear, He came to *seek* and *save* the lost—and proved it by building relationships with "sinners." As a follower of Jesus, what are some ways you can do the same? Who do you think Jesus is asking you to *seek* out and build relationship with?
7. When you look at the Bible passages from this weekend's message, who do you find yourself relating to the most: the tax collectors and sinners or the merciless religious people? What steps do you think need to be made to become more like Jesus—no matter who you find yourself relating to the most?

Challenge:

Throughout the next week, take a hard look at how you perceive Jesus (or the Jesus you may have built for yourself). Does the Jesus you are following look and act like the Jesus the Son of God, the One we find in the Bible—full of grace AND truth? Try and memorize Luke 19:10 this week – "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost" and ask God to show you where to seek the lost in your world. Then, step out in faith and show them the love of Jesus—full of grace AND truth.