



**Outcasts Welcomed**

Cornerstone Bible Church  
 Lilburn, GA  
 Pastor Peter O'Neill

**WEEK 8**

Mark 2:13-17

***13 Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. 14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.***

***15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"***

***17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."***

**(Mark 2:13-17, NKJV)**

**I. Who was Levi and What is a Tax Collector?**

- 1.
- 2.

**II. Why were the scribes and Pharisees so Appalled?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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### III. How does Jesus Respond?

1.

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2.

### IV. What Lessons can We Learn or Take Away?

1.

2. Tips to make People feel Welcomed:

- Look people in the eye, smile, and offer your hand of friendship.
  - Welcome anyone new by celebrating and saying, "I'm glad you are here!"
  - Learn people's names and remember them. Write them down and let them see you write them down.
  - Help them find a seat. Maybe next to you?
  - Take the initiative and start a conversation.
  - Ask them to tell their story: Where did you grow up? Who is in your family? What is your favorite thing to do? What do you do for work? How and when did you trust in Christ? Where did you go to church before coming here? Where do you like to serve at church? What is your ministry passion?
  - Listen to them. Don't do all the talking. Listening is a very effective way to show love.
  - Invite them to something, anything! Sunday Potluck, lunch, small group or bible study, Sunday School, youth group, church event, dinner at your house, or whatever... just invite them to something!
  - Greet children at their level and let them be kids.
  - Take new people on a tour of our church.
  - Be yourself. Be your introvert/awkward or extroverted/outgoing self. Let people see that we welcome all types of followers of Jesus Christ into our church.
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