

# ***The Gospel According to Mark Jesus. Servant. Master.***

## ***Lesson 9***

### **Read Mark 2:13 – 17**

**Introduction:** *When Jesus called Levi (Matthew), He was calling a man who, as a tax collector, was in the highest of income brackets. Yet Jesus mentioned nothing about pay, benefits, or perks. Levi was being called from a life of relative wealth to one of simplicity with Christ. Why would he accept? The answer is clear as you study the Bible. There's nothing wrong with earning a good income, but don't be deceived. Money cannot buy fulfillment. It has been said, "Money will buy a bed, but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusement but not happiness; religion but not salvation."*

Pastor Stephen Chappell

1. Jesus was teaching in Capernaum and out on the shores of Galilee. It was on the shore that He passed by Levi's tax office and He said to him "*Follow me*". What was Levi's response to the statement of Jesus? What do you think prompted Levi to leave his successful business and follow Jesus?
  - Is there something that you had to leave behind in order to follow Jesus?
  - What did Jesus say in Mark 10:28 – 31 concerning following Him?

2. According to Mark 2:13 – 17, Matthew 9:9 – 13 and Luke 5:27 – 32 what do we discover about the calling of Levi?
  
3. Apparently, Jesus was invited to Levi's home for a going away party. Levi had invited many other tax collectors and friends to join them. What was the result of Jesus spending time in Levi's home according to Mark 2:15?
  
4. How did the scribes and Pharisees react to Jesus hanging out with tax collectors and sinners described in Mark 2:16?
  - Have you ever been guilty of asking a question like that in your heart; "Why is that person hanging out with such ungodly people"?
  
  - What did Jesus say in Mark 16:15 – 16 and what did John teach in 1 John 2:15 – 17? What should be the balance with our relationship with Christ and those in the world?
  
5. According to Mark 2:17 what did Jesus say in regard to the scribes and Pharisees question? (Please write out what Jesus said)