

4. Who You Get Behind Determines

Who is _____ You as _____ Follow.

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:15-17 NIV

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:13 NIV

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

Mark 16:15 NLT

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34, 35 NIV

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... Ephesians 2:13-22 NIV

Jesus brings together a group of disparate people who for all practical purposes should not be together. They are bound by forgiveness, their love and devotion for Christ and their common passion to see the world transformed by the good news of Jesus' love. This crazy bunch of people are called followers of Jesus, family, The Church.

Lets Get Behind Him

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Who Are You Willing to Get Behind?

"We have never seen anything like this!"

Mark 2:1-12 – Forgiveness and Roof Repairs

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Mark 2:4, 5 NIV

Mark 2:13-17 – Dinner with Sinners

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:17 NIV

1. Who You Get Behind Determines

Your _____ and You _____.

¹³Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. ¹⁴As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. Mark 2:13, 14 NIV

Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

Mark 2:3 NIV

Additional Scriptures: John 14:4-6

“When a Christ-follower trusts Jesus for their eternal destiny it is demonstrated in their trust of Jesus for their daily direction.”

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13, 14 NIV

2. Who You Get Behind Determines

What You _____ Up and What You _____.

Follow me,” Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

Mark 2:14 NIV

But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” Mark 2:10-12 NIV

Additional Scriptures: Matthew 7:28, 29; Hebrews 12:1, 2

I believe that the disparity between the devotion of the early Christ followers and today's followers has a lot to do with what we refuse to leave behind and what we neglect to take up.

3. Who You Get Behind Determines

Who _____ will _____ For.

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith... Mark 2:1-5 NIV

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” Mark 2:15-17 NIV

Additional Scriptures: Luke 19:9, 10; Romans 1:16

As I look at it, our passion to see people encounter Jesus is way too tempered by propriety. We need some people passionate enough to tear off some roofs!