

THE CALLING OF LEVI

MARK 2:13-17

Fellowship and Food

- **Acts 2:46-47** - ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The Calling of Levi

- **Mark 2:13-14** - ¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.



3:16

100% 

Jesus

Calling....



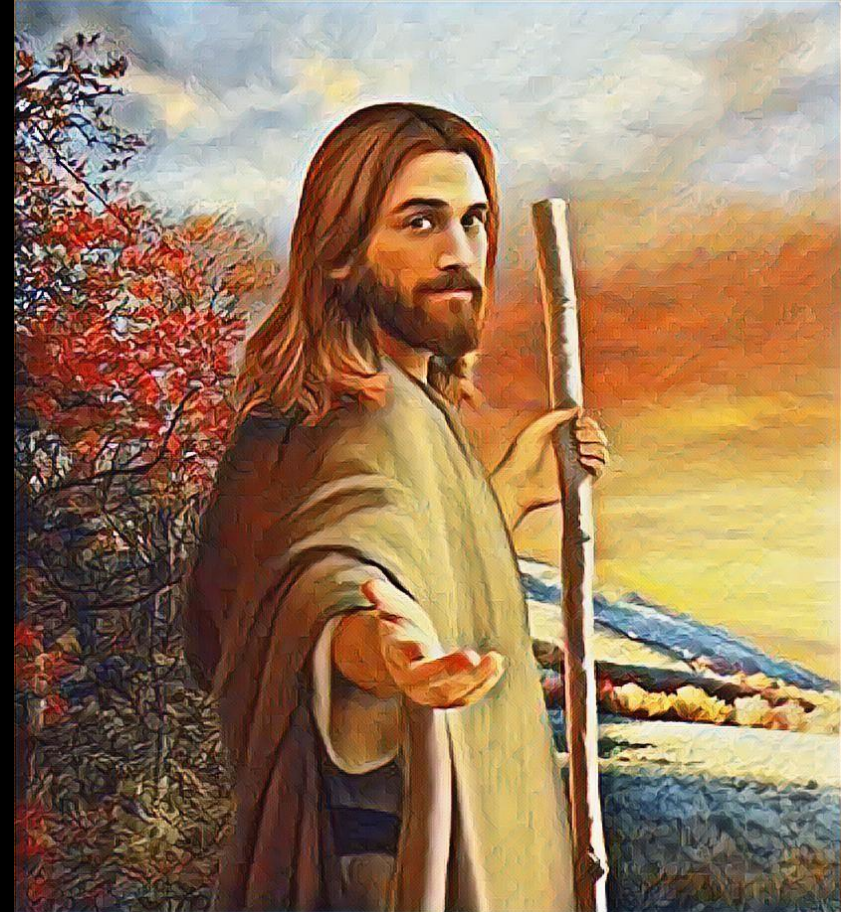
Decline



Accept

Will You Follow Jesus?

**What Will We Leave Behind
to Follow Jesus?**



Tax Collectors

- **Luke 19:1-2** - He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.
- **Luke 19:5-7** - ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”
- **Luke 19:9-10** - ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Tax collectors in Jesus' time

- In 66 BC, the Zealots burned the archives of Jerusalem where certificates of debt were kept
 - What did this mean for tax collectors?
- Did not have an easy life
- Were presumed to be criminal, as they would take more than was required of them
- The disciple Matthew was a tax collector – Jesus called him to follow him



Jesus – In Levi's House

- **Mark 2:15** - ¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

Guess Who's Coming For Dinner? – Anger of the Pharisees

- **Mark 2:16** - ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Prioritize These Sins – Which Ones Are Worst?

1. Adultery
2. Bribery
3. Extortion
4. Physical Assault/Torture
5. Treason – Serving the Roman Empire
6. Rape
7. Murder
8. Heresy – False Teaching
9. Prostitution

Dinner Guests?



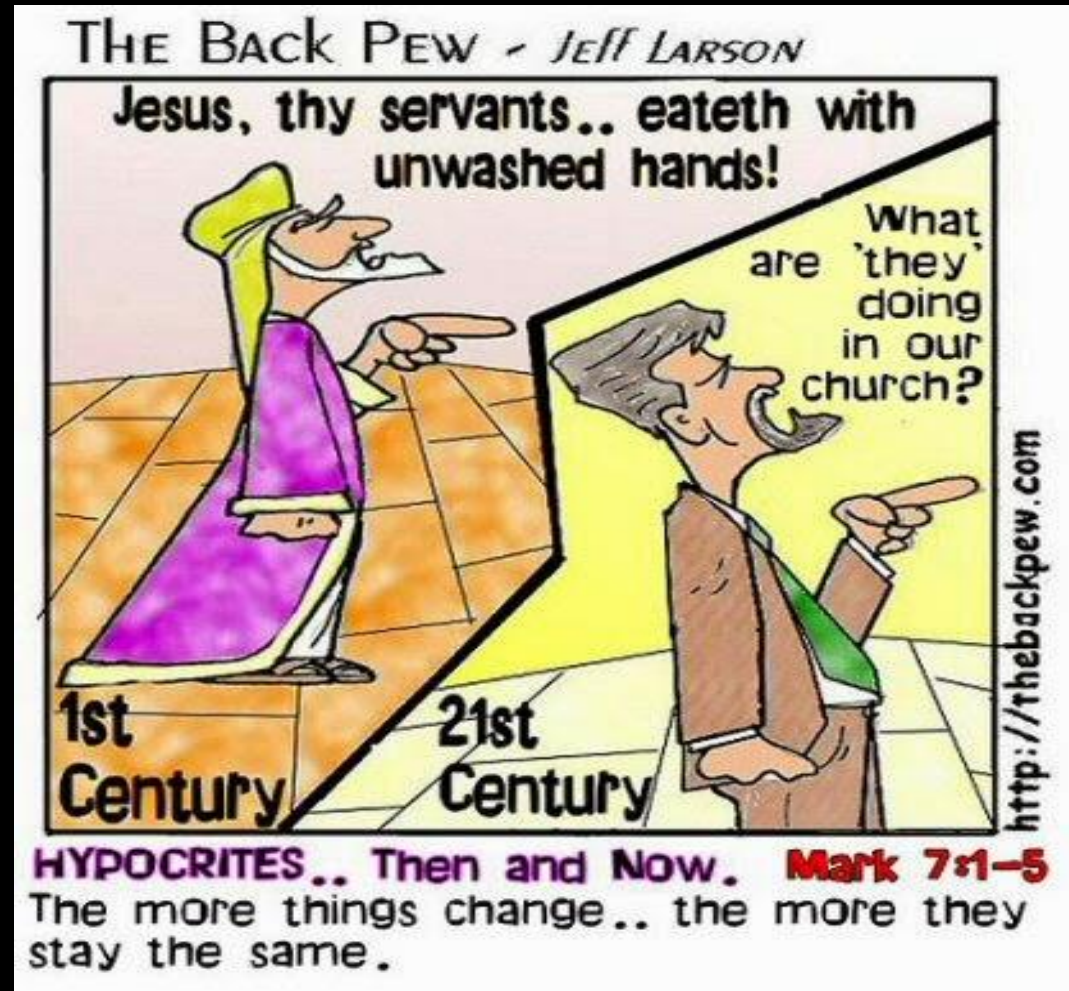
Karla Fay Tucker



Jeffrey Dahmer

Who Are the Modern Pharisees?

Who are the Modern Pharisees?
And Why do they Still Get it Wrong?



God Shows No Favoritism

- **Romans 3:23** - ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- **Acts 10:34-35** - ³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** - Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Avoid the Trap of Arrogance

- **Romans 12:16** - ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Parable of the Two Sons

- **Matthew 21:31** - Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

Jesus – The Great Physician

- **Mark 2:17** - ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

