

What We Are For

(Mark 2:13-17)

- Introduction:
1. Typecasting is when an actor becomes so well-known by a particular role, that people know him for the role, better than for himself.
 2. What a great thing it would be for us to be such followers of Jesus that when people thought of us, they couldn't help but think of him.
 3. In order for that to ever be true, we must learn to be for what he was for and to be against what he was against.
 4. Therefore, I want this church to be known for being a "friend of sinners."

I. Why We Are For Sinners

- A. (Mark 2:13-17).
- B. (Luke 7:34).
- C. (John 8:1-11).
- D. The reason we are for sinners is that Jesus was for sinners.

II. How To Be For Sinners

- A. Be okay with being with the marginal.
 1. (Luke 7:18-22).
 2. Look at the people mentioned in this passage.
 3. To be okay with the marginal means you must also be okay with others marginalizing you too (Luke 7:39).
- B. Aim to love and not be liked.
 1. (1 Timothy 1:5).
 2. Remember, Jesus wasn't liked, he was crucified.

III. Do We Need To Improve?

- A. How do we act when we are with or around sinners?
 1. Are we ever judgmental?
 2. Are we ever rude?
 3. Do we ever ignore or try to distance ourselves from them?
 4. Or do we see them as a lost soul needing help?

- Conclusion:
1. Let's do our best to be like Jesus this year.
 2. Let's allow him to challenge us and get us out of our ruts.
 3. May God help us to be a "friend of sinners," and to truthfully say, "I am for sinners!"