Jesus Breaking the Rules

The Guest List Is the Good News

Talk It Over

Message Summary

Jesus broke the rules about who belonged at the table. He welcomed outsiders with grace and challenged insiders to surrender. Because none of us earned our seat, following Jesus means making room for others.

Key Scriptures

Mark 2:13–14 (NIV)
As 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 2:15–16 (NIV)
While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples... When the teachers of the law... saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked... "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Mark 2:17 (NIV)
"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 3:33–35 (NIV)
"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- At a party or gathering, where do you usually end up: talking to everyone, sticking with people you know, finding the food, or looking for the exit?
- Watch this week's Sermon Refresh: Here (Available Monday's)

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Please read the Key Scriptures on the left.
- What do these passages reveal about who Jesus welcomes and what He asks of those who follow Him?

Start Sharing

Choose a question(s) to create openness.

- Why do you think Jesus intentionally moved toward people others avoided?
- What does Levi's invitation teach us about the difference between grace and approval?
- How can remembering that we didn't earn our seat change the way we see people outside our circles?
- What can cause Christians to build walls Jesus wants us to tear down?
- Who might Jesus be challenging you to make room for, and what would that look like this week?

Start Praying

Jesus, thank You for giving us a seat we didn't earn. Help us see people as You do and make room for others to experience Your grace. Amen.

Start Doing

This week, turn your table into a place of welcome. Mark specifically challenged us to share a meal with someone unlike themselves.

- **Invite:** Share a meal with someone you normally wouldn't.
- **Listen:** Learn their story. Ask a second question.
- **Welcome:** Build a friendship, not a project.