



Hope Includes the Excluded (Mark 2:13-17)

Your 'boast' is your identity. -Pastor Dan

1. When you're feeling despair, do you have a Christian friend you can reach out to, a song you go to listen to, or a story in the Bible you turn to?
2. Pastor Dan reflected that most of us have felt excluded or unwanted at some point in our lives. How has that experience enabled you to be more compassionate and inclusive toward others?
3. It's hard to believe that you can have a whole sermon message based on 4 verses with the key verse being "Follow me". But isn't that how all of our stories began, with Jesus looking at us and saying "Follow me"? Recall when Jesus spoke those words to you. How easy or difficult was it for you to leave everything and follow? What was something you turned from and left behind?
4. Read the following scriptures. Which of these help you to be confident that God loves and affirms your very being?
 - I Corinthians 1:26-31
 - Philippians 1:6
 - Psalm 139:1-6
 - Psalm 94:16-19
5. Besides Jesus, Levi and his guests having dinner there were the "on-lookers". Those on the outside looking in. They consider themselves as the "included" yet here we see them as the "excluded" looking in. They questioned why Jesus would rather be with the excluded. What does this tell you about Jesus? According to the Pharisees teachings, Jesus' association with Levi would have made him unclean. Who are the unclean that Jesus might be calling you to personally invite to a meal or rub shoulders with?