



## Sermon Notes: Friend of Sinners

### 1. A Contrast.

a. The Pharisees.

b. Jesus.

### 2. A Commentary.

a. Jesus befriended people who knew they were sin-sick.

b. Jesus befriended sinners so they could experience the mercy of God firsthand.

c. Jesus befriended sinners so they would be well.

### 3. A Charge.

a. A call to understand God's heart.

b. A call to go and live accordingly.



## Gospel Applications: Friend of Sinners

1. Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” of our culture?
2. How do you think the irreligious tend to view the categories of people you listed under #1? How do the religious tend to view them? How do you personally view them? What do think/feel when you’re around them?
3. How would you feel if you saw someone you really respect hanging around the people you listed under #1 – and seeming to have a really good time?
4. Reflect on your answers to #1-3. Why do you think you feel this way toward those people? What might God want to show you about your own heart?
5. What kinds of people do churches tend to pursue? (e.g. Think of how new church plants advertise and who they seem to be targeting with those ads.) Why do you think churches want *them*?
6. What kinds of things do churches do (programs, events, focus) to try to attract the kinds of people you listed under #5?
7. Think about some of the people closest to you (geographically, vocationally, socially). What are some things in their lives that prevent them from seeing their need of Jesus? How does recognizing this change how you might approach sharing Christ with them?
8. Thinking of Jesus’ phrase, “*I desire mercy and not sacrifice,*” what’s *your* sacrifice? What do you substitute for doing works of mercy for those in real need?
9. Mentally change places with someone disgusting you listed under #1. If you believed that this is where you were when Jesus’ mercy found you, how would this change your life tomorrow?
10. Where would Jesus go if he had a week to spend in Denver? Who would he spend time with? Doing what? How will your answers to these questions shape your future? [Be specific.]