

Jesus Drew Close to Sinners
Gospel Reading for January 14, 2017
With Divine Will Truths
Saint Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them (that), "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

III. The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life (CCC)
The proclamation of the Kingdom of God

545 *Jesus invites sinners to the Table of the Kingdom: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."²⁵⁸ He invites them to that conversion without which one cannot enter the Kingdom, but shows them in word and deed His Father's boundless Mercy for them and the vast "joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents."²⁵⁹ The supreme proof of His Love will be the sacrifice of His Own Life "for the forgiveness of sins."²⁶⁰*

III. Jesus and Israel's Faith in the One God and Savior (CCC)

588 *Jesus scandalized the Pharisees by eating with tax collectors and sinners as familiarly as with themselves.³⁶⁴ Against those among them "who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others," Jesus affirmed: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."³⁶⁵ He went further by proclaiming before the Pharisees that, since sin is universal, those who pretend not to need salvation are blind to themselves.³⁶⁶ ⁵⁸⁹ Jesus gave scandal above all when he identified his merciful conduct toward sinners with God's own attitude toward them.³⁶⁷ He went so far as to hint that by sharing the table of sinners he was admitting them to the messianic banquet.³⁶⁸ But it was most especially by forgiving sins that Jesus placed the religious authorities of Israel on the horns of a dilemma. Were they not entitled to demand in consternation, "Who*

can forgive sins but God alone?"³⁶⁹ By forgiving sins Jesus either is blaspheming as a man who made himself God's equal or is speaking the truth, and his person really does make present and reveal God's Name.³⁷⁰

From the Book of Heaven

V28 - June 2, 1930 - "Therefore, My daughter, I know where My aims tend to, what they must serve for, what I do, great and beautiful, when I choose a creature. What do they know? And this is why they have always something to say about My Operating. And not even My short Life down here was spared, when My Most Holy Humanity was in their midst and I was All Love for them; and yet, if I drew too close to sinners, they had to say that it was not decorous for Me to deal with them. And I let them talk, and without giving importance to their talking, I did the facts, I drew closer to sinners, I Loved them more in order to attract them to Love Me. If I did miracles, they had something to say, because they believed I was the son of Saint Joseph; they had to say that the promised Messiah could not come from a carpenter, and they kept arousing doubts about My Divine Person, so much so, as to form clouds around the Sun of My Humanity. And I aroused the little breezes to get rid of the clouds, and I reappeared more blazing with Light in their midst, in order to accomplish the Purpose of My coming upon earth, that was the Redemption."