

## **WHO IS A SINNER?**

James closes his book with an appeal “to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad” regarding ministry to the sinner.

The problem we have with James 5:19-20 is that if he is referring to believers, he is using Pharisaical terminology. If he is referring to unbelievers, he is using the terminology of Jesus Christ.

This lesson will look at the teaching of Jesus Christ for clarity on the subject, “Who is a sinner?”

<b>This lesson will examine <u>four aspects</u> of Jesus’ teaching on this subject.</b>
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### **1. We will begin by examining Luke 5:27-32.**

This was the calling of Matthew (Levi) also recorded in Matt.9:9-13. Because he was a tax collector for Rome, he was put with the category of “Sinner” by Pharisees.

#### **Luke 5:27-32**

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| • Party (27-29)                          | tax-collectors (telones/ publican) and <u>others</u>   |
| • Prejudices (30)                        | tax-collectors and <u>sinner</u> s   |
| • Principle of common sense (31)         | physician’s purpose  |
| • Purpose of first advent of Christ (32) | Christ stated purpose of His first advent:<br>“I have NOT come to call the righteous but the sinners<br>to repentance (metanoia).” |

### **2. In the parable of the Two Debtors, Jesus contrasted His view with the Pharisees in Luke 7:40-50 on “Who is a sinner?”**

- Preview (7:28-35)
- Pharisee Party (30)
- Perfume anointing by sinner (31-39)
- Parable of Two Debtors (40-43) – “So which of them will love him more?” Note Jesus considered them both debtor and sinner.
- Personal word to Simon (44-47) – “Do you see this woman?” But you didn’t give Me common hospitality (45-46) “For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, love little.” (47)
- Personal word to sinner (48-50) – “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” (50).

Only one went home justified by God grace. The one who acknowledged he was a sinner in need of salvation.

### **3. In the parable of Pharisee and Publican, Jesus contrasted two attitudes of worship in Luke 18:9-14.**

- Trusted in self-righteous and viewed other in contempt (9)
- Temple prayer of Pharisee (10-12) – “praying to himself about himself.”
- Temple prayer of Publican (13) – “God be merciful to me, the sinner!”

- Truth about divine justification
  - “I tell you, this man (repentance sinner) went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (14)
- TWO sinners BUT only one went home justified by God grace because only one acknowledged the truth about his true spiritual status.

**4. Even the arrogance of these Pharisees called Jesus a sinner because he healed a blind man from birth on Sabbath day (John 9:14).**

“So, a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, ‘Give glory to God; we know (oida/ perf.a.ind.1pl) that this man is a sinner.’” (Jn.9:24/ 9:3)

**And at the end of their interrogation of the healed blind man,**

(Jn.9:34) “They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?’ So, they put him out.”

(Jn.9:35) “Jesus heard that they put out, and finding him, He said, ‘Do you believe in the son of Man?’”

(Jn.9:38) “And he said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped Him.”

**Once again, only one went home justified by God’s grace.** The one who acknowledged he was a sinner in need of salvation by God’s grace.

(Rom.5:19) “For through the one (Adam) man’s disobedience the many were made (kathistermi/ a.p.ind.3pl) [to appoint to a position] sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (Christ) the many will be made (kathistermi/ f.p.ind.3pl) righteous.”

(Rom.5:8) “But God demonstrated His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinner, Christ died for us.”

(1 Tim.1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner, among whom I am foremost of all.”

**What about you?**

Will you go home justified by God’s grace by believing the grace gospel of Jesus Christ?

(1 Cor.15:3-4)

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(Rom.1:16)

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(Eph.2:8-9)

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