

Do I Need a Savior?

(A question that reveals more about me than it does about the Gospel)
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Bible Matters sources)

Introduction:

A. Luke 5:29-32

1. Jesus called Matthew, the tax collector, who left everything to follow Him; but first has a feast, invites other tax collectors, universally hated people, workers for Herod Antipas and the Roman state, representatives of oppressive, ungodly power
2. They were perceived as having "sold out" to the Roman power, and their salary was whatever they obtained from the people beyond the Roman expectation for taxes, and whatever they could extort, they could keep
3. According to the religious authorities of that day, Jesus' conduct was scandalous. Prevalent belief was that to be holy you had to be separate from sinners

B. Jesus' answer was alien to their thinking

1. Jesus as Physician - Hosea 6:6; Prov. 21:3; Micah 6:6-8

I. DO I NEED A SAVIOR?

A. The sinners heard Jesus and followed Him - Mark 2:15

1. Other religious figures in society would not give them the time of day, Jesus would
2. The parable of two sons in Matt. 21:28-32
3. Jesus does not deny that they are sinners or that they need to change
4. The sinners know they are sinners, know they need a Savior, and are willing to listen to Jesus
5. Jesus knows that sinners sin and knows that they can do something about it
6. How do we treat "sinners"? Do we understand that sinners sin?
7. Do they hear Jesus speaking in how we address them - Rom. 15:2-3

B. The "Righteous" non-Christians

1. Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repent
2. Rom. 3:9-12, 23; 1John 1:8, 10
3. This does not stop some from believing they are righteous
4. Many tell themselves that they are "good people," believing that "good people" will be saved
 - a. They believe their good deeds outweigh the bad
 - b. Others define themselves as "good" by the sins they avoid
5. One infraction is sufficient for condemnation - James 2:8-13
 - a. If someone is charged with stealing, his defense cannot be he has not killed
 - b. There are no small sins against our Great God. The enormity of the sin is measured against the greatness of the One offended.
6. The "righteous" un-saved are self-deceived. As long as they remain self-deceived, Jesus can do nothing for them

C. The self-"Righteous" Christians

1. When Jesus made the declaration about the sinners and the righteous, there were no unbelievers present
2. He spoke to the Pharisees and scribes, the religious authorities
3. They believe they have inherent holiness
 - a. Luke 18:10-12; Matt. 23:1-4; John 9:28-29, 34
4. While Jesus shows great mercy to sinners, He shows less to these religious authorities, for they are "healthy" and "righteous" in their own sight, and thus there is nothing He can do for them in that condition
5. God wants believers to be holy as He is holy - Lev. 11:44
 - a. But holiness and righteousness is not an excuse to act arrogantly
 - b. Hosea 6:6 - God desires mercy, not sacrifice
 - c. Matt. 23:23-24 - It is good to follow God's laws, but it is worthless if not accompanied by a godly disposition and attitude
6. Something Christians today must remember, that God desires mercy, not sacrifice
7. No matter how holy we become, we still sin
 - a. Titus 3:3-5, 8; 1Tim. 1:12-16
8. If we ever think ourselves as fully righteousness, Jesus can no longer do anything for us

II. DO I BELIEVE THAT I NEED A SAVIOR?

A. Isa. 64:6; Phil. 3:9; Phil. 4:13

1. We are not made righteous by anything we can do for ourselves; we are made righteous through Christ - Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:4-10

B. What we received from the Lord that saves us reminds us to view others as our Lord views us

1. Matt. 20:25-28; 1John 4:8-11
2. We must show mercy and compassion to others, even when they do not deserve it, because God showed it to us, even when we did not deserve it - Rom. 5:6-11
3. We must not look down on others, since Christ did not look down on us but felt compassion for us - Matt. 7:1-4; James 4:11-12

Conclusion:

- A. Our Lord ate and drank with sinners to work to save sinners
- B. It was controversial then; it is controversial now!
- C. Jesus saves sinners, but even Jesus can do nothing for those convinced they are already righteous