

Tuesday, March 2

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 9

Today's Devotional Message is by Pastor David Rispoli

"And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Matthew 9:11

The Pharisees were upset with Jesus because he was eating with tax collectors, prostitutes and other notorious sinners. So they ask the question, "Why does Jesus eat with such people?" They were not looking for answers as much as they were making a statement. The question was not rooted in curiosity, it was grounded in their judgmental attitudes. The statement implied that they were better than these people. They had more class, more morals, and were closer to God. Have you ever encountered people who think they have more class, more morals and are closer to God? Have you ever experience people with judgmental attitudes. These people are the Pharisees of today. Unfortunately, they are everywhere.

Jesus does not get hooked by the question the Pharisees pose. He simply answers them. He says, "I did not come to save the righteous, but to save the unrighteous." What the Pharisees do not understand is that they are included in this "unrighteous" group. Every one of us also falls into this category. In God's eyes all of us are in the exact same boat. We all are sinners in need of God's grace. Unfortunately, the Pharisees missed God's best and his grace because they thought they were better than everyone else. The Good News message that we proclaim week after week at Joy is that God came to save sinners like us. Thank God for God's Grace!

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that you came to save sinners like us. Help us to overcome the judgmental attitudes in our lives and use us to share this message of love and hope with everyone we come in contact with. In Jesus Name, Amen.