



Luke 15:1-2

THE CONCERN FOR THE

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Luke 15:1

Now all the tax-gatherers were coming near Him and the sinners -> to listen to Him.

Luke 15:2

And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

We would be naive to assume Jesus had an easy ministry! He had to repeatedly communicate and defend His calling to those who were threatened by His ministry.

At the foundation of Jesus' ministry lay the privilege and need to work with the unwanted and undesirable. By Jesus' strong defence we should understand this concern for the lost remains to be one of the undergirding understandings that determined the bearings of His ministry.



We can look at this scene as an attempt by the Pharisees and scribes to use their well worn tools of 'reputation' and 'pride' to convince Jesus to leave His ministry to the unreligious. They were trying to justify their own religious standards as well as defend their stance in dealing with these rift raft.



We can also look at this scene as an opportunity in which Jesus establishes and defends His methods to focus on the unreligious, neglected and unacceptable.

They believed:

- 1 that the "others" should not have a chance to reform.
- 2 that the "others" were beyond reform.
- 3 that God's truth was only for good people like themselves.
- 4 that association with the ungodly would lessen the moral standards of society.

They were undeserving of a chance.

They couldn't be changed for good.

They were not chosen for this.

They would bring about more damage than good.

Social selection

Genetic selection

Divine selection

Moral corruption

Jesus uses three "down to earth" parables to unashamedly defend His methodology. By convincing the crowds, He established a large consensus that the Pharisees and scribes couldn't easily ignore.

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