

**Opportunities – *Seize the Moment!***

**Mark 2: 13-17**

**February 22, 2026**

## Verse 13

**Jesus seized the opportunity to teach them**

**Taught** = “*didasko*” = to instruct by word of mouth; the pupil is expected to learn and apply the information

Hearing is one thing, applying and doing is another thing –  
**HEAR AND DO!!**

**Lesson:** Take advantage of every **opportunity** to teach those who want to hear

**“Carpe Diem”** = seize the day; seize the **opportunity**; be prepared! **2 Timothy 4: 2**

**God’s instruction to me:**

Be prepared for hidden **OPPORTUNITIES**

## Verse 14

**Jesus seized the opportunity to call the despised Levi**

**Matthew was a despised tax collector, a traitor, outcast, and sinner in the minds of Jewish society**

**Jews despised tax collectors because they worked for the Romans and extorted money for Rome**

**Jesus gave Matthew an opportunity that would inconvenience his plush life but change his future**

**Matthew had a crisis moment - follow Jesus or have a plush-me-life  
You face this daily = *Jesus or me***

**Lesson:**

**Matthew had a past; our past does not have to define our future**

**Jesus gives everyone an opportunity to change their past, to change their future**

Jesus gave the same opportunity to the rich young ruler to change his future – Matthew 19: 21

Felix, a Roman official, had an opportunity to change his future –  
Acts 24: 10-27

**Felix did what many do today, *put off believing!***  
Another time maybe, but NOT now

The Holy Spirit informs us, “ . . . . *behold now is the day of salvation*”  
2 Corinthians 6: 2

**DO NOT put off your opportunity with God!**

Did you catch what Jesus said to Matthew, and to all of us?

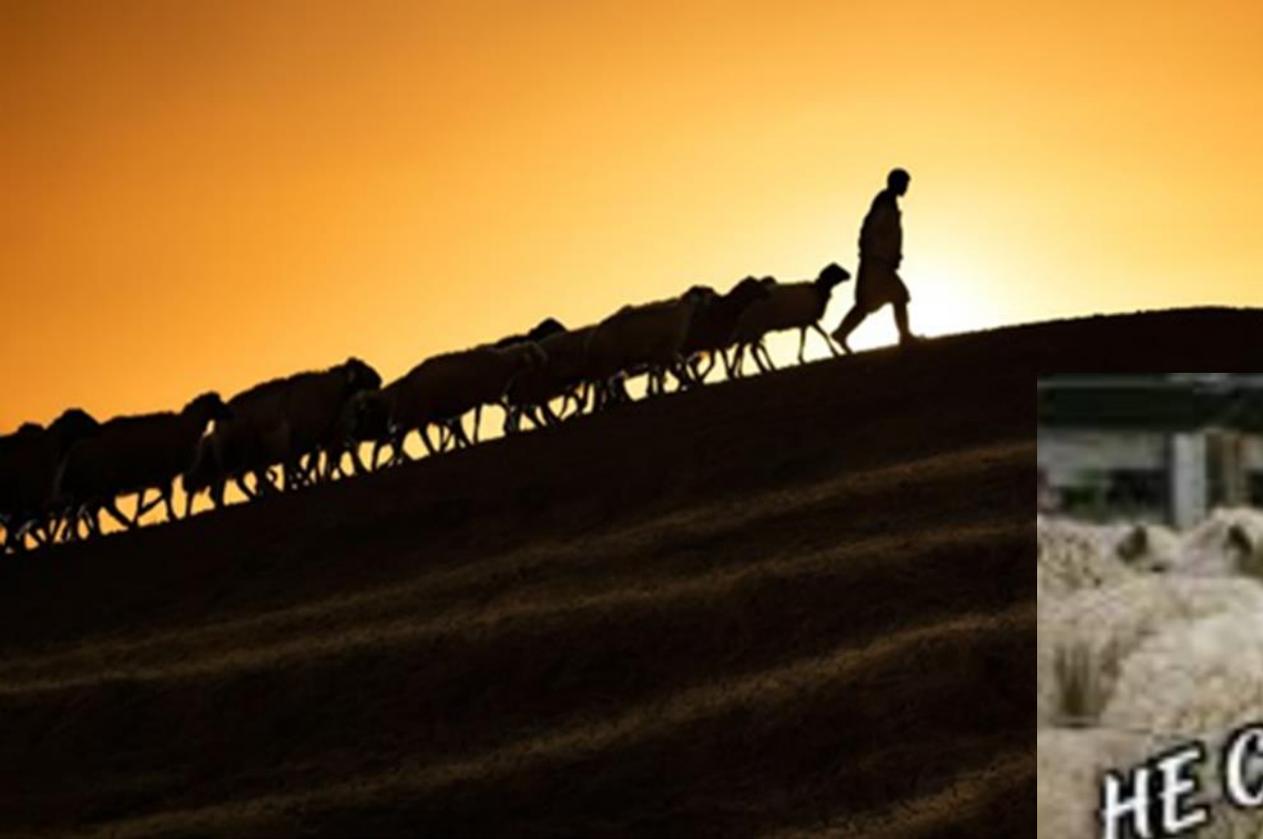
***“Follow Me”***

Jesus' call is always to discipleship – ***to become like Him!***

**What does it mean to follow Jesus?**

*It means to obey Him and heed His voice!*





**Following Jesus means to be an ambassador of Jesus, *His representative in our world!***

## Verse 15

**Jesus seizes the opportunity for outcasts to  
be incasts**

**In short order, Matthew is telling his friends about Jesus**

**We are called to be separate**

**Separate from sin, but not sinners**

**Introduce your outcast friends to Jesus!**

Verse 16 - 17

**Jesus seizes the opportunity – the call of the  
Great Physician**

The Pharisees are spying on Jesus, distressed that He would eat with sinners

When Jesus heard about it, He addressed the issue head on:

Those who are well do not need a physician, but those who are sick do

Jesus to the Pharisees:

*You are sick and don't know it!*

A sad state to be in – *DENIAL!*

DENIAL IS A DEFENSE  
MECHANISM THAT KEEPS US  
FROM SEEING THINGS HOW  
THEY TRULY ARE/WERE, BECAUSE  
IF WE DID SEE THEM FOR HOW  
THEY TRULY ARE/WERE, IT  
WOULD FEEL CONSCIOUSLY  
INTOLERABLE.

**Jesus cannot save those  
who are sick and refuse  
the Great Physician**

**CLOSING:**

**OPPORTUNITIES - SEIZE THE MOMENT!**

Our greatest Holy Spirit **opportunity** is to know Jesus as your Savior

**Jesus always calls people to follow Him, to surrender their own agenda, and to obey His teachings**

**People cannot be neutral about Jesus**

**We cannot follow His teachings without accepting the truth of everything He said, and without accepting Christ Himself, by the power of the Holy Spirit**

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:15-17

It is worth noting the English word opportunity comes from the Latin *ob portu*

Chuck Swindoll: *“We are all faced with a series of opportunities (ob portu’s) brilliantly disguised as impossible situations”*

Seize the day, Believers, you have this precious thing called time!

*SEIZE THE DAY!*

For those not sure of salvation, there is a day when there are no more *“ob portu”* moments for salvation

**Nevertheless, God's solid  
foundation stands firm,  
sealed with this inscription:  
"The Lord knows those who  
are his," and, "Everyone who  
confesses the name of the  
Lord must turn away from  
wickedness."**

**Do not squander your “*ob portu*” moment; don’t put off  
like so many do (*Felix and the rich young ruler*)**

**BELIEVE NOW!  
and  
BE SAVED NOW!!**