

Luke 15:1-2

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

Read the first sentence of today's verse again: "***Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.***" Notice that Jesus was not known to be a party animal, drinking and sleeping around and doing all kinds of sinful things. Yet the sinners (and tax collectors) wanted to hang with Jesus, not to party with Him, but because of the way He lived and the things He said.

My life verse is: "***But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."*** John 6:68

Jesus has "***the words of eternal life***" and that's why I am drawn to Him and Love Him. But did the sinners hear Jesus speak words full of profanity, and disgusting jokes and stories, bad mouthing and gossiping about others, putting down the government, family members and others? Or did they hear Jesus' words, full of eternal life, words that would heal and comfort and provided. Words of Love and compassion; therefore, they wanted to hang (***drew near to Him***) with Jesus?

What about you? Why do nonbelievers want to hang out with you? Is it because you partake of the same sins that they do, telling dirty jokes, using profanity? Or is it that you don't partake of those things, but your words are full of love and compassion. Not judging but loving others like Jesus called us to do? Are you there to give them good, sound, godly advice, or are you encouraging them to chase after the things of this world as a solution for their problems?

Jesus was not concerned with doing or saying things to be liked or accepted, but rather to glorify the Father. Isn't it funny that Jesus' words and actions glorified God, and by so doing, the religious leaders rejected the same God that they were supposed to be worshipping and glorifying. Whereas the sinners accepted Jesus, His lifestyle, and words and how He glorified God even though they were sinning against God.

The Religious leader caused the sinners to reject God, yet Jesus drew sinners to God. We too are to be amongst nonbelievers to speak words and have actions that will glorify the Father, which will draw nonbelievers to Him, just like Jesus did!

✠ **John 17:15-18** *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

✠ **1 Corinthians 5:9-10** *I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this*

world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.