

A Wake-Up Call to Complacent Christians

It is often said that Jesus “hung out with sinners” or “hung out with prostitutes” during His earthly ministry. There’s more wrong with this than the scandalously irreverent phrasing. The point is to slander Christ the same way the Pharisees slandered Him, to make it seem as if Our Lord was one of them, and that he tolerated, accepted, even embraced their behavior. That is what “hanging out” entails. We speak of Jesus this way because we want to bring Him down to our level. We would rather shape Christ than be shaped by Christ. It is easier to drag Him into the muck with us than to climb up that hill, up Calvary, to meet Him. James and John arrogantly asked to sit at Christ’s right or left in His Kingdom. But at the cross, it was two thieves at His right and left—the one time when Jesus really did hang with sinners, and for them. One of them would enter into His Kingdom that very day, but he had to die first.

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