



I. PORTRAIT OF A SCANDALOUS MESSIAH—MARK 2:13-17

Jesus:

- 1. Calls the unlikely (v.13-14)**
- 2. Forgives the unforgivable (v.15-16)**
- 3. Redeems the unredeemable (v.17)**

II. WHAT THIS SCANDALOUS MESSIAH CAN DO FOR ME

Jesus gives me:

- 1. Assurance of real acceptance**

- 2. Hope of lasting change**

- 3. Promise of true healing**

- 4. Power to make a difference with my life**

The great paradox [of my life] is that every time I walk into a prison and see the faces of men or women who have been transformed by the power of the living God, I realize that the thing God has chosen to use in my life ... is none of the successes, achievements, degrees, awards, honors, or cases I won before the Supreme Court. That's not what God's using in my life. What God is using in my life to touch the lives of literally thousands of other people is the fact that I was a convict and went to prison. That was my great defeat, the only thing in my life I didn't succeed in.

Charles Colson