

Matthew 21:31-32 - Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you,” addressing the religious leaders of the time.

Pastors,

I wish we had more time to connect after the service this morning. My friend had a lot of questions about sin, and I encouraged him to speak with you—Pastor—as a theology major and a leader in this church. I’m here primarily to listen and to continue my research, but I was curious to hear your response, so I stayed in line with my friend.

By the way, Pastor—your sermon was powerful. It takes real courage to preach so directly about the fiery depths of hell. It was intense, even a little unsettling, but I appreciated the boldness. For me, it was a reminder to reflect on my own spiritual journey, and I’m praying with confidence that my name is in the Book of Life on Judgment Day.

That said, sermons like this can affect people differently. For some, it might have been a wake-up call, while for others, it may have gone unnoticed. I’d offer a gentle caution: none of us is perfect, and all of us, pastors included, are in need of repentance.

I hope you and the other pastors find my research on sin meaningful, especially regarding natural versus unnatural. A sin is a sin in the eyes of the Lord—whether it’s murder, stealing, lying, cheating, or sexual immorality. No sin is greater than another in God’s judgment, and I think this is an important truth to emphasize.

Associate Pastor, I’ve included you in this email because I feel my research could support a deeper understanding of scripture. I recall one of your earlier sermons—during the former senior pastor’s influence—when you said Jesus didn’t eat with certain groups of people. At the time, I took your word for it, but through my own questioning and study, I’ve come to realize that wasn’t accurate. This journey of discovery has deepened my appreciation for biblical truth.

After your sermon that day, I shared my concerns with my friend in Georgia, who has been a choir member at a UMC Church in Atlanta since 1995.

When I described what I heard in your sermon, he was taken aback. He taught me that everything Jesus said is recorded in red in the Bible, and that Jesus dined with tax collectors, prostitutes, and the outcasts of society. He never spoke against any group of people—instead, He exemplified grace, inclusion, and love. My friend also noted that sermons misrepresenting scripture could have serious consequences.

I'm sharing this with you not to criticize but to encourage thoughtful reflection and alignment with the truths of scripture. What keeps me coming back to God's word is His unwavering love for me and the profound truths within the Bible. It's between God and me, and I refuse to abandon those convictions.

Thank you for the leadership and for the opportunity to share my perspective.

**In Christ's love,
Teddy**