

GOSPEL PEARLS

The most serious patients

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Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post.

He said to him, "Follow me."

And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house,

and a large crowd of tax collectors

and others were at table with them.

The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying,

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do.

I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners." (Lk 5:27-32)

The most seriously ill are not, principally, those who suffer materially or spiritually, but those who do not recognise that they are sinners and therefore refuse to humbly entrust themselves to Jesus to heal their vices. It is this obstinacy that leads to the final impenitence, a sin that God cannot forgive and which drags our soul into the eternal suffering of hell. So let's examine our conscience so we are able to recognise our daily sins!