

WOULD JESUS HAVE JOINED A FRATERNITY?

People often ask me where my office is on the campus of Ole Miss, and I tell them my office is the whole Greek system here.

We have some of the biggest fraternities in the nation. For example, the Kappa Alpha house which had over 100 pledges last fall.

This campus's Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Nu and Alpha Tau Omega houses also have the biggest chapters in the nation.

Because we've got one of the biggest Greek systems in the country, my question is this: Would Jesus have associated with these guys?

To start, let's look at Matthew 9:9-12.

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.'"

There are a couple different people in this story: Jesus, the Pharisees, Matthew, his friends and all these sinners, and then the disciples.

The room is crowded with sinners, and the Pharisees can't even walk inside the room or they will be declared ceremonially unclean. So they're probably outside the room, and Jesus is sitting at the table hanging out with these "sinful people."

All of a sudden, He stops, because He discerns what the Pharisees are saying, and that's when He says, "those who are well have no need of a physician, but it's those who are sick," and then He goes right back to talking with these people.

I think Jesus would spend most of his time with the lost, and the Greek system is a great place for you to spend your time.

"A DRUNKARD AND A GLUTTON"

Look at Matthew 11:19. Jesus says, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, look at Him, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

Why would they call Him a drunkard and a glutton? Because He was spending all of His time with the lost at these parties.

Now Jesus may not have drank wine at all, but the fact that He was even associating with these people gave Him a bad reputation with the Pharisees.

I've been in the Greek system for 29 years, this is my 21st year at Ole Miss, and to be honest, I think a lot of Christians spend their time looking more like the Pharisees than Jesus.

FOR STUDENTS AND CAMPUS MINISTERS

If you're a Christian thinking about going to college, I would love for you to really pray about joining a fraternity or sorority to have an influence and make a difference for Christ.

If you're a freshman, and you've pledged a house, maybe it's not the house or the chapter you wanted to be a part of. Remember, you're not the one who gets yourself into a fraternity, it's not your looks or who you know—it's God.

If you're a junior or senior and you're starting to get caught up in your resume, or your girlfriend or boyfriend, I would challenge you to think, "Why are you in that house?"

Never again in the rest of your life will you know so many people who will know you, and will look up to and respect you.

My feeling is that you need to be living in the house and eating all your meals in the house.

Some of the highlights of my life were when I lived in the fraternity house for two years when I was at Arkansas.

I went to every chapter meeting and every party. I was right there so that I earned the right to stand up in chapter and say what I wanted to say or meet with the pledges.

The key is consistency. Yeah, you make mistakes. I've made mistakes too. But if you're consistent over the long haul, the Lord can really use you in the Greek system. This is a huge group of people who need to know about the Lord.

If you're a campus minister, I want you to really think about going to these places and praying for them.

I plan to have all kinds of videos on cobirmingham.org/greek to train you. I want to be a resource for you so that we can reach every fraternity and sorority guy and girl with the gospel around the nation.

WILL YOU PRAY FOR THE GREEK SYSTEM?

I would challenge you to join me and pray for the Greek system, especially the one on your campus. Pray for the fraternity or sorority that God may be calling you to be a part of.

I don't think God wants all the Christians to be together, and He sure doesn't want you to leave your junior and senior year and go off and create your own holy huddle.

You need to be right here—active. You need to be the officers, you need to be the chaplain, and you need to be the pledge trainer.

There might not be another time in your life when you know so many other people who need the gospel.

Find out more at cobirmingham.org/greek