

Matthew 9:9-13—Jesus for All People

I. Who is Matthew?

- a. Tax Collector—Collaborated with Roman occupiers, sellouts to their country.
- b. Lots of money, few friends
- c. Jesus, seen as a religious leader (rabbi), would know it's inappropriate to hang out with him.

II. How Jesus chooses to see Matthew—not just a surface judgment

- a. Someone made in God's image—inherent dignity and value despite lifestyle or choices.
- b. Someone with broken relationship to the Father (sadness, not hatred)
- c. Hurting and desperate

III. The Interaction

- a. Jesus goes to Matthew's place, doesn't wait for him to come to synagogue.
- b. Jesus meets him where he's at, but calls him into something new.
 - i. 'got up' literally= arose; Matthew experienced a resurrection of sorts through the grace of Jesus
- c. Matthew invites him to dinner and Jesus & disciples connect with his sinful friends.

IV. The Criticism—note Jesus loved Matthew enough to risk his own reputation for him.

- a. Pharisees—good church-goers: no *drinkin*, *gamblin*, *smokin*, *cussin* kind of folk
- b. Jesus gives beautiful analogy of sick needing a doctor.
- c. Pharisees falsely believed they were on a higher moral level than tax collectors; led to self-righteous judgment; *all are sinners in desperate of grace!*
- d. Jesus quotes OT prophet Hosea, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"; at the heart of you exercising your faith is showing others mercy, not being a moral pew warmer.

V. So what?

- a. Who is Jesus for? He is for all people; he breaks social, moral, ethnic, and racial barriers—c.f. *Revelation 7:9-12*
- b. Jesus gives us the mission to see others as he does and invite them to him (*Matt.28:18-20*; *2 Cor. 5:17-21*)
- c. We live this out by extending dignity & love to everyone God places in our lives, because they are worthy of his love