

GOOD NEWS FOR MATTHEW AND YOU AND ME

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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. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:9-12

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:27-32

SUMMARY:

- 1 – The amazing grace and love of Jesus that changes lives
- 2 – Receiving Christ is worth leaving behind anything else – by comparison
- 3 – It is important to see that Jesus ate with sinners and those who were in need of a relationship with Him.
- 4 God calls every one of us to simply be ourselves in doing the work of His kingdom.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question:

- Have you responded to Jesus who said simply, "Follow me."?
- How has it changed your life?
- How has it impacted the life of those around you?

Discussion: What are some of the changes you have seen in your life since you become a believer? What have others noticed?

What are the barriers that keep us from loving and caring – even eating with them – for others who do not live like we live and who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior?

APPLICATIONS:

You are to be _____ for the life that you live has been changed by Christ.

You are to recognize that all the _____ is garbage compared to the unfathomable love of Christ.

You are to _____ and offer them the healing love of Christ.

You are to _____ and use your talents and spiritual gifts for Christ.

ON YOUR OWN...

Matthew 9:9-12
Matthew 28:16-20
Luke 5:27-32
John 1:35-51
Romans 12:1-8
John 1:35-51