



**The Tax Collector's Home
November 21, 2021**

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" ¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." ¹³ Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13 NLT

- The community and religious leaders saw a sinner, traitor, and tax collector, but Jesus saw the person and needs of Matthew.
- **Matthew** is the Greek name and **Levi** was the Hebrew name.
- Jesus values the **outcasts** and the **marginalized**.

"Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

- Follow me = **invitation**
- Matthew immediately worked to connect his **circle of influence** to Jesus.
- To share a meal = **friendship, connection, welcome**
- Jesus enjoyed food, but **He loved people**.

JESUS IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" ¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."

- Religion is **man's attempt** to get to God.
- Jesus was **God's only way** of redeeming a right relationship with man.
- **Religion**: believe + behave = invitation, then belong
- **Jesus**: invitation = believe + belong, then behave
- Religion tries to **limit** who deserves to sit at the table, but Jesus fights to **expand** who is welcomed to the table.
- We often forget what's it like to be on **the outside** looking in.

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." **Romans 10:9-13 NLT**

"The temptation of the age is to look good without being good." **Brennan Manning**

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV**

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST WAS RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY.

- If we are comfortable with **dead religion**, we will not embrace **the power of the Gospel**.
- We see people based on what they **have done**. Jesus sees them based on what **He can do!**

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. **Isaiah 43:19 NLT**

³⁴ "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." **John 13:34-35 NLT**

- Jesus shows us the **power** of personal touch and **invitation**.
- Who are you **inviting to your table?**

Next steps for me today...

- Invite someone to dine at our table today.
- Invite someone to church this week.

- **Share with my circle of influence what Jesus has done in my life.**