

**Intro:** As we continue our series on “The Life of Jesus: Matthew Edition” we come to Matthew chapter 9:9-13. Yes you heard that right 9-13 just a few verses. But this section is filled with transformational information about who Jesus is and who we are in relation to Him.

**Pray:**

Now before we dig into the text its important to remember where we are in Matthew.

1-2 Jesus’ birth and early life, 3-4 Jesus preparation for public ministry, 5-7 Sermon on the mount and then last week we looked at Matthew 8 solo public ministry and Jesus healing the centurions servant. And we talked about how our primary identity is not found in exterior identity but in Jesus Christ. And we said that real mature Faith is not simply intellectual assent or knowing things about God but it goes much deeper then that are we willing to act out in faith and trust in who Jesus is when our lives seem uncertain.

**The analogy that best helps me think of this is the idea of a chair...**

Since healing the centurion’s servant Jesus has stopped a storm healed a bunch of people, cast out demons and been driven out of a neighborhood. Then in chapter 9 Jesus returns to his hometown. Lets quickly look at the beginning of 9 because there are a few things that will be important for our passage today...

Read Matthew 9:1-8

- Blaspheming?
- Foreshadowing chapter 10

As we move into our main passage for today I want us to keep in mind these two questions. What does this passage tell us about who Jesus is and what does it tell us about who we are in light of who He is.

**Read the Word: Matthew 9:9**

**Paint the Picture:**

- Need to look at the other accounts in Mark 2 and Luke 5

- Mark 2 its obvious that Jesus is not just walking along but he has this whole crowd with Him. He is still doing miracles and teaching.
- He comes to this tax booth
  - Stops
  - Follow Me
  - And Immediately Matthew leaves and follows Him.

### **Ask the Questions:**

- Why is it important that Matthew was at a tax booth?
  - People hated tax collectors
  - Corrupt
  - Traitor
  - Exploit
    - Bribes
    - Pocket stuffing
  - Villages moving
- Who is Levi?
  - To help protect Matthew
- Why would Matthew just get up and leave?
  - All Jesus says is Follow Me.
  - Sat. and heard Jesus teach
  - Heard the miracles
  - Heard the preaching of John the Baptist
  - Jesus called the disciples when the Spirit had prepared their hearts
    - Evangelism
- Why would Jesus call Him?
  - Breaks down divisions of identity and unities people under the Lordship of Christ
  - Last week centurion
    - Oppressed and oppressor
    - Mentioned this several times
    - So important is because our primary identity dictates how we react to others with a different primary identity
      - Leftist language
      - The crucifix
  - Jesus called people from all walks to himself and

- Sons and daughters
- Citizens of the kingdom of heaven
- Members in the household
- Devil brings division
- Jesus brings unity under the banner
- Matthew 10: Matthew the tax collector.

**Paint the Picture/ transition:**

Jesus calls Matthew the tax collector out of a life of exploitation, and comprises and shame and calls him to be a disciples and then Jesus goes to his house.

**Read the Word: Matthew 9:10**

**Paint the Picture:**

- Chain reaction
- Luke makes it more obvious that this isn't just a normal meal; Matthew is throwing a banquet in Jesus' honor.
- So now you have Jesus and all his disciples eating and talking together with people who as will see would not be invited into the religious leaders of the day
  - This is a great reminder to all of us not to underestimate the impact that we can have on one person who welcome with love into the Kingdom of God.

**Transition:**

This is a profound moment for Jesus, Matthew, the disciples and all those at the meal but as we will see this picture of redemption and renewal is not seen the same by everyone.

**Read the Word: Matthew 9:11**

**Paint the Picture:**

- The Pharisees don't see people being called out of a life of corruption they see "proper Jews being contaminated by the unclean."

**Ask The Questions:**

- Why is sharing a meal such a big deal?
  - Seen as covenant, approval, a willingness to identify with.
  - Fights stopped
    - Ex: fantasy football or book club
- Still a temptation that plagues serious Christians
  - Get so wrapped up in Christian identity
  - Barstool ministry

**Transition:**

This is what Jesus says in the next verses

**Read the Word: Matthew 9:12**

**Paint the Picture:**

- Jesus has been accused by the Pharisees of somehow contaminating himself by eating with tax collectors and sinners
  - Short response but packed full break it up

**Ask the Questions:**

- What does Jesus say about who He is?
  - He is the physician
  - “Your sins are forgiven” blasphemy
    - Same thing in a different way
    - Who can forgive sins not committed against them, who can heal the sickness of the soul Only God
    - Is blasphemy if said by anyone else.
  - Even more clear in verse 13
    - I desire mercy not sacrifice
      - Hosea 6
      - The Jews were covering up for the rebellion in their heart by using outside acts of devotion
    - Because of this Jesus is calling people to himself
      - He didn’t say to Matthew “go to the temple more, or find a study group”
      - He said follow me

- The desire of God is that people would have true devotion true love and true worship and to that end Jesus says follow me.
  - People claim that Jesus never called himself God. But there is no way to seriously study Matthew 9 and not recognize that there are only two possibilities either God is not who we think he is, he is not the physician and not the one who forgives sins, or Jesus is God.
  - He doesn't just claim to be God he claims to be the God who sits and eats with sinners and calls them to follow Him
- What is Jesus saying about us?
  - We are sick in need of a physician and sinners in need of a savior.
  - The Pharisees were right
    - But they refused to recognize that they are also sinners
    - Like an alcoholic calling someone out for have two beers when they are downing a handle of jack.
  - Recognizing our disease and our own sin is painful.
    - Conversation with Larry
    - Old sit com
    - G.K. Chesterton "Yes their our saints indeed in my religion but a saint is only a man who really knows he is a sinner."
  - We must recognize our sickness if we want to be healed and admit our sin if we want to be saved.

## **Conclusion:**

What does the calling of Matthew tell us about how we should live?

- First know this..
  - Jesus is calling you
    - Salvation, healing and wholeness
- Once you have come to Jesus we have the responsibility and the privilege to call others to Jesus
  - Matthew
  - Cannot get so comfortable in our Christian identity that we sacrifice the Gospel for the approval of others

- Intentionality on a personal level
  - That's how the kingdom of God will grow
  - That's how the lost will be found
  - That's who the love of Jesus and the light of his truth with push back the darkness in the world...

**Lets pray**