

# Matthew: He Saw A Man

Discussion Guide for Matthew 9:9-13 on July 12 & 13, 2025

## Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Marc discusses Matthew 9:9-13, focusing on Jesus' call to Matthew, a despised tax collector, and His subsequent dinner with 'tax collectors and sinners.' The sermon explores how Jesus extends mercy to those society deems unworthy, challenging the self-righteousness of the Pharisees who criticized Him. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus came as a physician for the spiritually sick who acknowledge their need for healing, not for those who believe they are already righteous.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your boundless mercy and grace, open our hearts to receive Your truth. Help us to see ourselves honestly as people in need of Your healing touch. Remove any self-righteousness that might blind us to our own spiritual sickness, and give us compassion for those whom society rejects. Guide our conversation today, that we might better understand the width, depth, and breadth of Your love for all people. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

When you were a child, did you ever feel left out or not chosen for something you really wanted to be part of? How did that experience make you feel?

## Key Verses

Hosea 6:6

John 3:14-15

1 John 1:8

## Questions

1. Pastor Marc mentioned that Matthew immediately left everything to follow Jesus. What do you think enabled him to respond so decisively, and what might be holding you back from following Jesus more fully?
2. Jesus said, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' What's the difference between religious activities (sacrifice) and showing mercy? How might we be guilty of prioritizing the wrong one?
3. Who are the 'tax collectors and sinners' in our society today? How might our church be more intentionally welcoming to those who feel excluded?
4. The sermon described the church as a hospital for the spiritually sick. In what ways do you see yourself as spiritually sick and in need of the Great Physician?
5. Pastor Marc shared the story of ministering to a military officer caught with child pornography. What was your honest reaction to this story, and what does it teach us about the extent of God's mercy?
6. How has experiencing God's mercy in your own life affected how you show mercy to others? Is there someone you consider 'too far gone' for God's grace?
7. What are some ways we might be blind to our own need for God's mercy?
8. When Matthew experienced Jesus' mercy, his immediate response was to throw a party and invite his friends to meet Jesus. What has been your response to experiencing God's mercy?

## Life Application

This week, identify someone in your life whom you may have judged, avoided, or considered unworthy of God's grace. Pray daily for this person, asking God to help you see them through His eyes of mercy. Then take a concrete step toward showing them kindness and acceptance - perhaps through a conversation, an invitation to coffee, or simply a genuine greeting. Remember that as recipients of God's mercy, we are called to be 'medics of mercy' to others, especially those society deems unworthy.

## Key Takeaways

1. Jesus sees and calls those whom society rejects, demonstrating that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy.
2. Those who have experienced God's mercy should be eager to extend that same mercy to others, especially those considered 'deplorable' by society.
3. Jesus came as a physician for the spiritually sick who acknowledge their need, not for the self-righteous who deny their condition.
4. The church should function as a hospital where soul-sick people are welcomed and find healing through Christ.



5. Our mission as followers of Jesus is to be 'medics of mercy' in a broken world, bringing the healing message of Christ to those who know they need it.

#### Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Great Physician who came not for the righteous but for sinners. We acknowledge our own spiritual sickness and our desperate need for Your healing mercy. Forgive us for the times we've acted like Pharisees, judging others while blind to our own faults. Help us to be authentic followers who extend Your mercy to everyone we encounter, especially those society rejects. Give us soft hearts and hard feet to go where You would go and love whom You would love. May we be known as friends of sinners, just as You were. In Your merciful name we pray, Amen.