A Question of Righteousness

1. **Call** - Matthew’s Autobiography
2. **Context** - Reclining at the Table
3. **Question** - Righteous Status
4. **The Lesson** - A Teaching on Sacrifice & God’s Desires

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called
Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow
me.” And he rose and followed him. 10 And as Jesus reclined
at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners
came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And
when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why
does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But
when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need
of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what
this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not
to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 9:9–13

ESV

9 As Jesus passed on from there, he
saw a man called Matthew sitting at
the tax booth, and he said to him,
“Follow me.” And he rose and followed
him.

Matthew 9:9

ESV

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24 ESV

10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

Matthew 9:10 ESV

10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said
to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with
no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell
you, many will come from east and west and
recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in
the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the
kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In
that place there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.”

Matthew 8:10–12

ESV

11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they
said to his disciples, “Why does your
teacher eat with tax collectors and
sinners?” 12 But when he heard it, he
said, “Those who are well have no need
of a physician, but those who are sick.

Matthew 9:11–12 ESV

The Question of Christ’s company is pointed at Jesus’s lack of separation.

The Answer to the Question is re-directed toward those who are Sick.

The point is obvious: any effective “healer” must expect to get his hands dirty.

R.T. France, The Gospel of Matthew

13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I
desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I
came not to call the righteous, but
sinners.”

Matthew 9:13

ESV

22 And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as
great delight in burnt offerings and
sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of
the Lord? Behold, to obey is better
than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat
of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22 ESV

6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 6:6

ESV

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice,
or I would give it; you will not be
pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The
sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a
broken and contrite heart, O God, you
will not despise.

Psalm 51:16–17 ESV

6 “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow
myself before God on high? Shall I come before him
with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the
Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten
thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for
my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my
soul?” 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and
what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and
to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6–8

ESV

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were
wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is
foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is
weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is
low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to
bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being
might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him
you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God,
righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that,
as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

ESV