
Matthew 9:9-13 Pursue & Call

Matthew is busy at work, collecting taxes for the oppressive Roman government. He is a traitor, the lowest of lows in Jewish society. Yet Jesus approaches him, at his work, and calls him to follow. In that moment, Matthew drops everything to follow Jesus. And then, he invites his friends over, also sinners, to meet the one who pursued and called him.

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

Jesus doesn't look for people who think they are self-sustaining. He looks for people who need a Savior. Jesus pursues and calls sinners to follow him. We are to follow his example, to also pursue and call sinners to follow the one who pursued and called us.

Discussion Questions

- What were you like when Jesus called you to follow him?
- What do you understand about God's mercy, or steadfast love? Exodus 34:6, Psalm 23:6; Psalm 51:1; Hosea 2:19-20
- How does Jesus show mercy? John 3:17, 1 Timothy 1:15, Romans 5:8
- How comfortable are you and how much time do you spend with unchurched people?
- Jesus went to great lengths to show love and mercy to you. Will you do the same to others? Who will you pursue?
- What can you do to ensure that you will have a Gospel centered conversation this week?

D&A (Discipleship & Accountability)

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?
- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?