

# Sermon Guide



## **“Surprised by Jesus” May 22nd, 2022**

"<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' "

### **Matthew 9:9-13**

In this Sunday's teaching, Rick shared about the surprising nature of Jesus. Matthew 9 gives us a snapshot of Jesus reclining at table with "tax collectors and sinners." Jesus goes a step further by calling Matthew to follow him. Among Jewish society, Matthew was considered the worst of the worst. The story of Matthew shows us the heart of Jesus: He often waits for us in the places we most need His transforming light.

As you read through this week's passage, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He illuminates Scripture and sheds light into our hearts. Then, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the questions below.

Rick said that "to follow Jesus is a daily being surprised by Him." Think back to a time when you were surprised by Jesus. What happened?

Rick stated that "it is one thing to have knowledge about God. It's another to have the knowledge of God." He rooted knowledge of God in scripture, including truths found in this week's passage. Reread Matthew 9:10-13. How does the passage shed light on the difference between knowledge about God and the knowledge of God?

In Matthew 9:12-13, Jesus tells the Pharisees that he came "not to call the righteous but sinners." Rick shared about our natural propensity to isolate ourselves in our struggle with sin and brokenness; we hide our shame, try to attain goodness apart from Christ, and diminish the darkness in our lives. Does that resonate with you? If so, how might God be speaking to you?

Rick said that the Christian walk often requires us to "unlearn and relearn" as we more fully embrace our identity as a new person. What do you think Matthew had to unlearn when he was called by Jesus?

**At Fellowship, we often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus.** As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to? Maybe you have never invited Jesus into places of shame in your life. As Rick said, Jesus waits for you there. Maybe you *have* brought those areas to Him but haven't invited other believers to walk with you. Jesus invites you into deeper community with your New Family.