



If you met Jesus

Real stories. Honest Questions.



IF YOU MET JESUS, PART 3: MATTHEW: YOU ARE NOT TOO FAR GONE FOR GOD

Have you ever wondered if your past—what you’ve done or what’s been done to you—disqualifies you from being truly known and loved? Jesus sees you fully and deeply and still calls you to follow him. Like Matthew, you’re invited to leave behind what’s broken and step into a life filled with love, purpose, and belonging. Jesus is someone worth losing everything for—because in him, you gain what truly matters.

BIG IDEA: God doesn’t love you because you change. You change because God loves you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever tried to change in order to win someone’s approval? How did that feel?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, [read through Matthew 9:9-13](#).*

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” ¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” ¹³ Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” [Matthew 9:9-13 \(NLT\)](#)

3. Jesus “saw” Matthew. What do you think it means that Jesus sees you?
4. What does Jesus’ invitation, “Follow me,” reveal about his character and mission?
5. In this passage, Jesus seems to be comfortable in the company of tax collectors and sinners, while the Pharisees express considerable outrage. What standards did Jesus have for choosing his relationships?
6. Matthew immediately shares Jesus with his friends. Why do you suppose this was his first response?
7. What does it mean to be “healthy” and “sick” as described in verse 12? Would you describe yourself as healthy or sick?
8. How does the [Hosea 6:6](#) reference (“I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices”) challenge the Pharisees’ mindset—and ours?
9. How do you typically respond when Jesus’ call on your life feels costly or risky?
10. Who in your life could you intentionally invite to experience Jesus, like Matthew did?
11. In what ways have you experienced belonging and community since following Jesus?
12. How do you guard against self-righteousness creeping into your spiritual walk? What’s one way this week you could live out your faith authentically—no masks, no pretending?
13. How would your life look different if you truly believed that Jesus is worth losing everything for?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus extends his invitation to people who know something’s wrong but aren’t sure what to do about it. He invites people who know they are not all they ought to be. He didn’t ask Matthew to clean up his act before following him, and Jesus doesn’t ask that of us. In time, within the context of his relationship with Jesus, Matthew experienced incredible life transformation. But Jesus’ initial request and his request from there on out is simply, “Follow me.” Will you follow Jesus?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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