

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

January 4, 2026 – Miracle Moments: The Calling That Transforms

Main Passage: Matthew 9:9-13

Main Idea:

Jesus calls sinners by grace, transforms them by mercy, and invites them to follow Him fully.

Setting the Scene

- Matthew pauses the miracle narrative to show **the purpose behind Jesus' power.**
- This moment is not about healing bodies, but **redeeming lives**
- Jesus calls a man whom everyone else had already written off

1. Jesus Calls the Unlikely (v. 9)

- Matthew (Levi) was a tax collector — despised and rejected
- His past and position did not disqualify him
- Jesus issues a simple command: *"Follow Me."*
- Grace comes **before** change.

Truth:

Jesus is more concerned with redemption than reputation.

2. Matthew Responds Immediately (v. 9b)

- Luke tells us Matthew **left everything**
- Following Jesus always involves leaving something behind
- Obedience is not partial or delayed

Truth:

You cannot cling to the tax booth and follow Jesus at the same time.

3. Grace Produces Celebration (v. 10)

- Matthew hosts a great banquet
- Jesus reclines at the table with sinners
- Salvation leads to invitation, not isolation

Truth:

A transformed life naturally moves toward the lost.

4. Religion Objects to Mercy (v. 11)

- Pharisees question Jesus' associations
- They value image and separation over grace
- They are close to Jesus physically, but far from Him spiritually

Truth:

Religion without mercy always misunderstands Jesus.

5. Jesus Defines His Mission (vv. 12–13)

- The sick need a doctor, not the well
- God desires mercy, not religious performance
- Jesus came to call sinners, not the self-righteous

Truth:

Sacrifice without repentance is empty.

Application

- Stop **disqualifying** people Jesus is willing to call
- Don't let your past delay obedience
- Be willing to leave what Jesus asks you to leave
- Move toward sinners with grace, not judgment
- Guard against trusting performance instead of repentance

Key Takeaway

Jesus does not call the qualified — He qualifies the called.

Jesus is still calling today:

- Not with condemnation
- Not with conditions
- But with mercy and grace

His call is simple:

"Follow Me."