



FOR
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Called

Pastor Cecil Whitton | September 8, 2019

1. LifePointe exists to DEVELOP LIFELONG FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST who EXPERIENCE, LIVE, and SHARE life!

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**

2. When you haven't found your CALLING, stay FAITHFUL and your calling will find you.

a. The CALL is significant. (**Matthew 4:19**)

TRUTH: We are SAVED to be SENT.

b. The COST is significant. (**Matthew 16:24**)

TRUTH: You have to GIVE up to GO up.

TRUTH: The greatest price is not US sacrificing for Christ but CHRIST sacrificing for us.

c. The COMPENSATION is significant.

(**Hebrews 6:10 & Hebrews 11:6**)

TRUTH: PEOPLE are the PRIZE.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

DIGGING DEEPER

MATTHEW 9:9-13

- Jesus says, "Go and learn what this means" and then he quotes **HOSEA 6:6**. (Jesus also quoted this another time in **MATTHEW 12:7**). What does this statement from Hosea mean?
- Did Jesus mean that He *never* requires sacrifice or outward obedience? Aren't there many places where God call us to sacrifice and obey Him in the Bible (such as **MATTHEW 16:24**)?
- While Jesus frequently criticizes the Pharisees, he also seems to hold them up as an example of righteousness in **MATTHEW 5:20**. Yet Jesus says that even their righteousness isn't enough. If that is true, what hope do any of us have of heaven? (See **ISAIAH 61:10** and **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**.)
- Examine Jesus's statements to the Pharisees in **MATTHEW 23:23-28**. What does this tell us about Jesus's priorities? How is the heart (inside) related to our obedience (outside)? Is it possible to have one without the other?
- Jesus quotes Hosea in the middle of saying, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick," and, "I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners." What do these statements mean and how are they related to the quote from Hosea? (**MATTHEW 23:23-28** may be helpful here too.)
- Based on all of this, how should we live as Christ-followers? What can we do to cultivate both the heart and the overflowing obedience that God desires?

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