

What I Know Now...

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Cory Spangler

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13

"Tax Collectors" in Jesus's Time: People who use their insider knowledge of their own people to collect taxes on behalf of their oppressors. People who sometimes charge more taxes than they are required to, extorting a profit for themselves.

"Sinners" in Jesus's Time: People known to do evil things. People who had rejected living under the Mosaic Law. Commonly used to describe people who lie, cheat, steal and a host of other evils.

What I know now...

1) Principles can get in the way of loving people.

If I saw Jesus eating with _____, I would be offended.

2) Truth becomes personal through incarnation

3) The best way to overcome evil is with good.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:17a, 21b